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# CHARACTERISTICS.

## VOLUME III.

MISCELLANEOUS REFLECTIONS on the preceding Treatises, and other Critical Subjects.

A Notion of the Tablature, or Judgment of HERCULES. With a Letter concerning DESIGN.



Printed in the Year M.DCC.XXXII.



T R E A T I S E      VI.

V I Z.

*Miscellaneous Reflections,  
&c.*

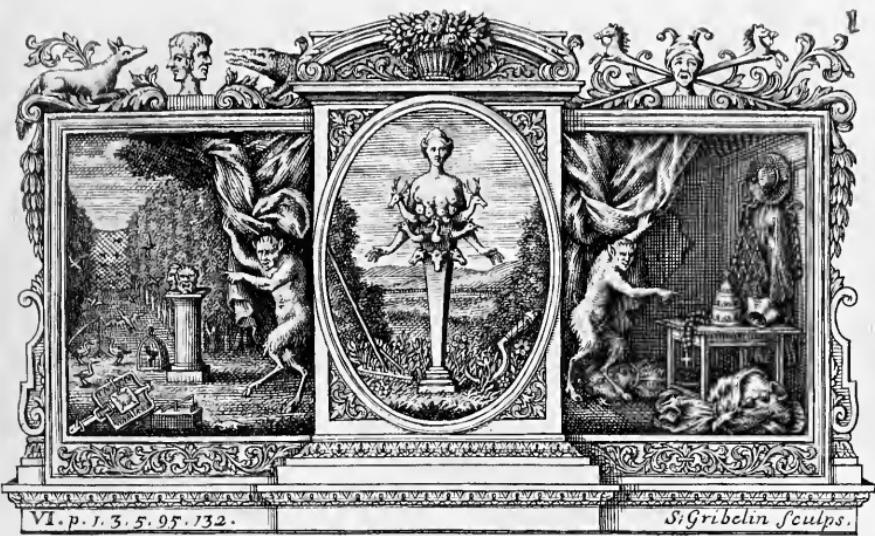
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*Scilicet uni æquus Virtuti, atque ejus Amicis.*  
Horat. Sat. i. Lib. 2.

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Printed first in the Year M.DCC.XIV.





VI. p. 1. 3. 5. 95. 132.

S. Gribelin Sculps.

## Miscellaneous Reflections.

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### MISCELLANY I.

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#### C H A P. I.

*Of the Nature, Rise, and Establishment of MISCELLANYS.—  
The Subject of these which follow.  
—Intention of the Writer.*

**P**EACE be with the Soul of that charitable and courteous Author, who for the common Benefit of his Fellow-Authors, introduc'd the ingenious way of MISCELLANEOUS  
Vol. 3. A Writing!

Misc. I. *Writing!* — It must be own'd that since  
~~~~~ this happy Method was establish'd, the  
Harvest of *Wit* has been more plentiful,  
and the Labourers more in number than  
heretofore. 'Tis well known to the able  
Practitioners in the *writing Art*; “ That  
“ as easy as it is to conceive *Wit*, 'tis the  
“ hardest thing imaginable to be deliver'd  
“ of It, upon certain Terms.” Nothing  
cou'd be more severe or rigid than the  
Conditions formerly prescrib'd to Writers;  
when CRITICISM took place, and Regularity  
and Order were thought essential in  
a Treatise. The Notion of a genuine *Work*,  
a legitimate and just *Piece*, has certainly  
been the Occasion of great Timidity and  
Backwardness among the Adventurers in  
*Wit*: And the Imposition of such strict  
*Laws* and *Rules* of Composition, has set  
heavy on the free Spirits and forward  
Genius's of Mankind. "Twas a *Yoke*, it  
seems, which our Forefathers bore; but  
which, for our parts, we have generously  
thrown off. In effect, the invidious Dis-  
tinctions of *Bastardy* and *Legitimacy* being  
at length remov'd; the natural and lawful  
Issue of the Brain comes with like advan-  
tage into the World: And *Wit* (*mere WIT*)  
is well receiv'd; without examination of  
*the Kind*, or censure of *the Form*.

THIS the MISCELLANEOUS Manner  
of Writing, it must be own'd, has hap-  
pily

pily effected. It has render'd almost every Ch. 1. Soil productive. It has disclos'd those various *Seeds of Wit*, which lay suppress'd in many a Bosom ; and has rear'd numberless *Conceits* and curious *Fancys*, which the natural Rudeness and Asperity of their native Soil wou'd have with-held, or at least not have permitted to rise above the ground. From every *Field*, from every *Hedge* or *Hillock*, we now gather as delicious Fruits and fragrant Flowers, as of old from the richest and best-cultivated *Gardens*. Miserable were those antient Planters, who understanding not how to conform themselves to the rude *Taste* of unpolish'd Mankind, made it so difficult a Task to serve the World with *intellectual Entertainments*, and furnish out the Repasts of *Literature* and *Science*.

THERE was certainly a time when the Name of AUTHOR stood for something considerable in the World. To succeed happily in such a Labour as that of writing a *Treatise* or a *Poem*, was taken as a sure mark of Understanding and Good Sense. The Task was painful : But, it seems, 'twas honourable. How the Case happen'd, in proces of time, to be so much revers'd, is hard to say. The primitive Authors perhaps being few in number, and highly respected for their Art, fell under the weight of *Envy*. Being sensible of their

Misc. i. their Misfortune in this respect, and being  
excited, as 'tis probable, by the Example  
of some popular Genius; they quitted their  
regular Schemes and accurate Forms of  
Workmanship, in favour of those *Wits* who  
could not possibly be receiv'd as *AUTHORS*  
upon such difficult Terms. 'Twas neces-  
sary, it seems, that *the Bottom* of Wit  
shou'd be enlarg'd. 'Twas advisable that  
more Hands shou'd be taken into the Work.  
And nothing cou'd better serve this popular  
purpose, than the way of MISCELLANY,  
or *common ESSAY*; in which the most con-  
fus'd Head, if fraught with a little Inven-  
tion, and provided with *Common-place-Book*  
Learning, might exert itself to as much ad-  
vantage, as the most orderly and well-settled  
Judgment.

To explain the better how this Revolu-  
tion in Letters has been effected, it may  
not perhaps be indecent, shou'd we offer  
to compare our Writing-Artists, to the  
*Manufacturers* in *Stuff* or *Silk*. For a-  
mong These 'tis esteem'd a principal piece  
of Skill, to frame a Pattern, or Plan of  
Workmanship, in which the several Co-  
lours are agreeably dispos'd; with such  
proportionable Adjustment of the various  
Figures and Devices, as may, in the  
whole, create a kind of *Harmony* to the  
Eye. According to this Method, each  
*Piece* must be, in reality, *an Original*. For  
to

to copy what has gone before, can be of Ch. 1.  
no use. The Fraud wou'd easily be per-  
ceiv'd. On the other side, to work *originally*,  
and in a manner *create* each time a-  
new, must be a matter of pressing weight,  
and fitted to the Strength and Capacity of  
none besides the choicest Workmen.

A MANNER therefore is invented to confound this Simplicity and Conformity of Design. *Patch-work* is substituted. *Cuttings* and *Shreds* of Learning, with various *Fragments*, and *Points* of Wit, are drawn together, and tack'd in any fantastick form. If they chance to cast a *Luster*, and spread a sort of sprightly *Glare*; the MISCELLANY is approv'd, and the complex Form and Texture of the Work admir'd. The EYE, which before was to be won by Regularity, and had kept true to Measure and strict Proportion, is by this means pleasingly drawn aside, to commit a kind of *Debauch*, and amuse it-self in gaudy Colours, and disfigur'd Shapes of things. Custom, in the mean while, has not only tolerated this Licentiousness, but render'd it even commendable, and brought it into the highest repute. The *Wild* and *Whimsical*, under the name of the *Odd* and *Pretty*, succeed in the room of the *Graceful* and the *Beautiful*. Justness and Accuracy of Thought are set aside, as too constraining, and of too painful an

Misc. I. aspect, to be endur'd in the agreeable and  
more easy Commerce of *Gallantry*, and  
modern *Wit*.

Now since it has been thought convenient, in these latter Ages, to distinguish the Provinces of *WIT* and *WISDOM*, and set apart *the agreeable* from *the useful*; 'tis evident there cou'd be nothing devis'd more suitable to the distinct and separate Interest of the former of these Provinces, than this *complex* manner of Performance which we call *MISCELLANY*. For whatever is *capricious* and *odd*, is sure to create *Diversion*, to those who look no further. And where there is nothing like *Nature*, there is no room for the troublesom part of *Thought* or *Contemplation*. 'Tis the Perfection of certain *Grotesque-Painters*, to keep as far from *Nature* as possible. To find *a Likeness* in their Works, is to find the greatest Fault imaginable. A natural *Connexion* is a Slur. A *Coherence*, a *Design*, a *Meaning*, is against their purpose, and destroys the very Spirit and Genius of their Workmanship.

I REMEMBER formerly when I was a Spectator in the *French Theater*, I found it the Custom, at the end of every grave and solemn *Tragedy*, to introduce a comick *Farce*, or *MISCELLANY*, which they call'd *the little Piece*. We have indeed

a Method still more extraordinary upon Ch. 1.  
our own Stage. For we think it agreeable and just, to mix the *Little Piece* or *Farce* with the main Plot or Fable, thro' every Act. This perhaps may be the rather chosen, because our Tragedy is so much deeper and bloodier than that of the French, and therefore needs more immediate Refreshment from the elegant way of *Drollery*, and *Burlesque-wit*; which being thus closely interwoven with its opposite, makes that most accomplish'd kind of theatrical MISCELLANY, call'd by our Poets a *Tragi-comedy*.

I COULD go further perhaps, and demonstrate from the Writings of many of our grave *Divines*, the Speeches of our *Senators*, and other principal Models of our national Erudition, "That the MISCELLANEOUS Manner is at present in the highest esteem." But since my chief Intention in the following Sheets is to descant cursorily upon some late Pieces of a British Author; I will presume, That what I have said already on this Head is sufficient; and That it will not be judg'd improper or absurd in me, as I proceed, to take advantage of this *miscellaneous Taste* which now evidently prevails. According to this Method, whilst I serve as Critick or Interpreter to this new Writer, I may the better correct his Flegm, and give him

Misc. i. more of the fashionable Air and Manner  
~~~ of the World ; especially in what relates  
to the Subject and Manner of his two *last*  
Pieces, which are contain'd in his second  
Volume. For these being of the more re-  
gular and formal kind, may easily be op-  
pressive to the airy Reader ; and may there-  
fore with the same assurance as *Tragedy*  
claim the necessary Relief of the little  
*Piece or Farce* above-mention'd.

N O R ought the Title of a MISCEL-  
LANEOUS *Writer* to be deny'd me, on  
the account that I have grounded my *Mis-  
cellanys* upon a certain Set of Treatises al-  
ready publish'd. *Grounds and Foundations*  
are of no moment in a kind of Work,  
which, according to modern Establishment,  
has properly neither *Top* nor *Bottom*, *Be-  
ginning* nor *End*. Besides, that I shall no-  
way confine myself to the precise Contents  
of these Treatises ; but, like my Fellow-  
*Miscellanarians*, shall take occasion to vary  
often from my propos'd Subject, and make  
what *Deviations* or *Excursions* I shall think  
fit, as I proceed in my *random Essays*.

## C H A P. II.

Of Controversial Writings: *Answers: Replies.*—Polemick Divinity; or the Writing Church-Militant.—Philosophers, and Bear-Garden.—Authors pair'd and match'd.—*The Match-makers.*—Foot-Ball.—*A Dialogue between our Author and his Bookseller.*

AMONG the many Improvements daily made in the Art of Writing, there is none perhaps which can be said to have attain'd a greater Height than that of *Controversy*, or the Method of *Answer* and *Refutation*. 'Tis true indeed, that antiently the Wits of Men were for the most part taken up in other Employment. If Authors writ ill, they were despis'd: If well, they were by some Party or other espous'd. For *Partys* there wou'd necessarily be, and *Sects* of every kind, in Learning and Philosophy. Every one sided with whom he lik'd; and having the liberty of hearing each side speak for it-self, stood in no need of express *Warning-Pieces* against pretended Sophistry, or dangerous Reasoning. Particular

Misc. i. ticular *Answers* to single Treatises, were thought to be of little use. And it was esteem'd no Compliment to a Reader, to help him so carefully in the Judgment of every Piece which came abroad. Whatever *Sects* there were in those days, the Zeal of *Party-causes* ran not so high as to give the Reader a Taste of those *personal* Reproaches, which might pass in a Debate between the different *Partymen*.

THUS Matters stood of old; when as yet the Method of writing *Controversy* was not rais'd into an *Art*, nor the Feuds of contending Authors become the chief Amusement of the learned World. But we have at present so high a Relish of this kind, that the Writings of the Learned are never truly gustful till they are come to what we may properly enough call *their due Ripeness*, and have begot a *Fray*. When the *Answer* and *Reply* is once form'd, our Curiosity is excited: We begin then, for the first time, to whet our Attention, and apply our Ear.

FOR example: Let a zealous *Divine* and flaming Champion of our Faith, when inclin'd to shew himself in Print, make choice of some tremendous *Mystery* of Religion, oppos'd heretofore by some damnable *Heresiarch*; whom having vehemently refuted, he turns himself towards

the orthodox Opinion, and supports the Ch. 2.  
true Belief, with the highest Eloquence  and profoundest Erudition ; he shall, notwithstanding this, remain perhaps in deep Obscurity, to the great affliction of his Bookseller, and the regret of all who bear a just Veneration for *Church-history*, and the antient Purity of the *Christian* Faith. But let it so happen that in this Prosecution of his deceas'd Adversary, our *Doctor* raises up some living *Antagonist* ; who, on the same foot of Orthodoxy with himself, pretends to arraign his Expositions, and refute the Refuter upon every Article he has advanc'd ; from this moment the Writing gathers Life, the Publick listens, the Bookseller takes heart ; and when Issue is well join'd, the Repartees grown smart, and the Contention vigorous between the learned Partys, a *Ring* is made, and *Readers* gather in abundance. Every one *takes party*, and encourages his *own* Side. " This shall be  
" my Champion ! — This Man for my  
" Money ! — Well hit, on our side ! —  
" Again, a good Stroke ! — There he  
" was even with him ! — — Have at him  
" the next Bout !" — Excellent Sport ! And when the *Combatants* are for a-while drawn off, and each retir'd with his own Companions ; What *Praises*, and *Congratulations* ! What *Applauses* of the suppos'd *Victor* ! And how honourably is he saluted

Misc. 1. by his Favourers, and complimented even  
 ~~~~~ to the disturbance of his Modesty !

" Nay, but Gentlemen ! — Good Gen-  
 " tlemen ! Do you really think thus ? —  
 " Are you sincere with me ? — Have I  
 " treated my Adversary as he deserves ?  
 " Never was Man so maul'd. Why you  
 " have kill'd him downright. O,  
 " Sirs ! you flatter me. He can ne-  
 " ver rise more. Think ye so in-  
 " deed ? Or if he shou'd ; 'twou'd  
 " be a Pleasure to see how you wou'd han-  
 " dle him."

THESE are the Triumphs. This is what sets *sharp*: This gives the Author his *Edge*, and excites the Reader's Attention; when the Trumpets are thus sounded to the Croud, and a kind of *Amphitheatrical* Entertainment exhibited to the Multitude, by these *Gladiatorial* Pen-men.

THE Author of the preceding Treatises being by profession a nice *Inspector* into the *Ridicule* of Things, must in all probability have rais'd to himself some such Views as these, which hinder'd him from engaging in the way of *Controversy*. For when, by accident, the \* First of these Treatises (*a private Letter*, and in the Writer's Esteem, little worthy of the

\* *Viz.* The Letter concerning ENTHUSIASM.

Publick's notice) came to be read abroad Ch. 2. in Copys, and afterwards in Print ; the ~~two~~ smartest *Answers* which came out against it, cou'd not, it seems, move our Author to form any *Reply*. All he was heard to say in return, was, " That he thought who-  
" ever had taken upon him to publish a  
" Book in answer to that casual Piece, had  
" certainly made either a very high Com-  
" pliment to the Author, or a very ill one  
" to the Publick."

IT must be own'd, that when a Writer of any kind is so considerable as to deserve the Labour and Pains of some shreud Heads to refute him in publick, he may, in the quality of *an Author*, be justly congratulated on that occasion. 'Tis suppos'd necessarily that he must have writ with some kind of Ability or Wit. But if his *original Performance* be in truth no better than ordinary ; his *Answerer's Task* must certainly be very mean. He must be very indifferently employ'd, who wou'd take upon him to answer Nonsense in form, ridicule what is of it-self *a Jest*, and put it upon the World to read *a second Book* for the sake of the Impertinencys of *a former*.

TAKING it, however, for granted,  
" That a sorry Treatise may be the foun-  
" dation of a considerable Answer ;" a  
*Reply*

Misc. i. *Reply* still must certainly be ridiculous, ~~as~~ which-ever way we take it. For either the Author, in his original Piece, has been truly refuted, or not. If refuted; why does he defend? If not refuted; why trouble himself? What has the Publick to do with his private Quarrels, or his Adversary's Impertinence? Or supposing the World out of curiosity may delight to see a *Pendant* expos'd by a Man of better Wit, and a *Controversy* thus unequally carry'd on between two such opposite Partys; How long is this Diversion likely to hold good? And what will become of these *polemick* Writings a few Years hence? What is already become of those mighty *Controversys*, with which some of the most eminent Authors amus'd the World within the memory of the youngest Scholar? An *original* Work or two may perhaps remain: But for the subsequent *Defenses*, the *Answers*, *Rejoinders*, and *Replications*; they have been long since paying their attendance to the *Pastry-cooks*. Mankind perhaps were heated at that time, when first those Matters were debated: But they are now cool again. They laugh'd: They carry'd on the Humour: They blew the Coals: They teaz'd, and set on, maliciously, and to create themselves diversion. But the *Fest* is now over. No-one so much as inquires Where the *Wit* was; or Where possibly the *Sting* shou'd lie of those notable

notable Reflections and satirical Hints, Ch. 2. which were once found so pungent, and gave the Readers such high Delight.—

Notable *Philosophers* and *Divines*, who can be contented to make sport, and write in learned *Billinggate*, to divert the Coffee-house, and entertain the Assemblys at Booksellers Shops, or the more airy Stalls of inferior Book-retailers !

IT must be allow'd, That in this respect, *controversial Writing* is not so wholly unprofitable ; and that for *Book-Merchants*, of whatever Kind or Degree, they undoubtedly receive no small Advantage from a right Improvement of *a learned Scuffle*. Nothing revives 'em more, or makes a quicker Trade, than a *Pair* of substantial *Divines* or grave *Philosophers*, well match'd, and soundly back'd ; till by long worrying one another, they are grown out of breath, and have almost lost their Force of Biting.—“ So have I known a crafty  
“ *Glazier*, in time of Frost, procure a *Foot-  
ball*, to draw into the Street the emulous  
“ Chiefs of the robust Youth. The tumid  
“ Bladder bounds at every Kick, bursts the  
“ withstanding *Casements*, the *Chaffys*, *Lan-  
terns*, and all the brittle vitrious *Ware*.  
“ The Noise of Blows and Out-cries fills  
“ the whole Neighbourhood ; and Ruins  
“ of Glass cover the stony Pavements ;  
“ till the bloated *battering Engine*, subdu'd  
“ by

Misc. I. " by force of Foot and Fist, and yielding  
 ~~ " up its Breath at many a fatal Cranny, be-  
 " comes lank and harmless, sinks in its  
 " Flight, and can no longer uphold the  
 " Spirit of the contending Partys."

THIS our Author supposes to have been the occasion of his being so often and zealously complimented by his *Amanuensis* (for so he calls \* his Bookseller or Printer) on the Fame of his first Piece. The obliging Crafts-man has at times presented him with many a handsom Book, set off with Titles of *Remarks*, *Reflections*, and the like, which, as he assur'd him, were ANSWERS to his small Treatise. " Here Sir! (says he) you have a considerable Hand has undertaken you! — This Sir, is a Reverend — This a Right Reverend — This a noted Author — Will you not reply, Sir? — O' my word, Sir, the World is in expectation. Pity they shou'd be disappointed! A dozen Sheets, Sir, wou'd be sufficient. — You might dis- patch it presently. Think you so? " I have my Paper ready — And a good Letter. — Take my word for it — You shall see, Sir! Enough. But hark ye (Mr. A, a, a, a) my worthy Engineer, and Manager of the War of

\* VOL. I. pag. 305.

" Letters!

“ Letters ! Ere you prepare your Artille-Ch. 3.  
“ ry, or engage me in A&ts of Hostility, ~~~,  
“ let me hear, I intreat you, Whether or  
“ no my Adversary be taken notice of.  
“ —Wait for his *Second Edition*. And  
“ if by next Year, or Year or two after,  
“ it be known in good Company that  
“ there is such a Book in being, I shall  
“ then perhaps think it time to consider of  
“ a *Reply.*”

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## C H A P. III.

*Of the Letter concerning Enthusiasm.*

—*Foreign Criticks.*—*Of Letters in general ; and of the Epistolary Style.*—*Addresses to great Men.*—*Authors and Horsemanship.*—*The modern Amble.*—*Further Explanation of the MISCELLANEOUS Manner.*

AS resolute as our Author may have shewn himself in refusing to take notice of the smart Writings publish'd against him by certain *Zealots* of his *own Country*, he cou'd not, it seems, but out of curiosity observe what the *foreign* and more

Misc. i. more *impartial Critics* might object to his  
 small Treatise, which he was surpriz'd to  
 hear had been translated into foreign Lan-  
 guages, soon after it had been publish'd  
 here at home. The first Censure of this  
 kind which came to our Author's sight,  
 was that of the PARIS \* *Journal des  
 Savans*. Considering how little favourable  
 the Author of the Letter had shewn  
 himself towards the *Romish Church*, and  
 Policy of FRANCE, it must be own'd  
 those Journalists have treated him with  
 sufficient Candor: tho they fail'd not to  
 take what Advantages they well cou'd  
 against the Writing, and particularly ar-  
 raign'd it for the want † of Order and  
 Method.

THE Protestant Writers, such as live  
 in a free Country, and can deliver their  
 Sentiments without Constraint, have cer-  
 tainly ‡ done our Author more Honour  
 than he ever presum'd to think he cou'd  
 deserve. His *Translator* indeed, who had  
 done him the previous Honour of introdu-

\* *Du 25 Mars, 1709.*

† *Ses pensées ne semblent occuper dans son Ouvrage, que  
 la place que le hazard leur a donnée.* Ibid. pag. 181.

‡ (1.) *Bibliotheque Choisie, année 1709. Tome XIX.*  
 pag. 427.

(2.) *Histoire des Ouvrages des Savans, Mois d' Octobre,  
 Novembre & Decembre, 1708.* pag. 514.

(3.) *Nouvelles de la Republique des Lettres, Mois de  
 Mars, 1710.*

cing him to the Acquaintance of the fo-Ch. 3:  
reign World, represents particularly, by the Turn given to the latter end of the Letter, that the Writer of it was, as to his Condition and Rank, little better than an inferior Dependent on the noble Lord to whom he had address'd himself. And in reality the *Original* has so much of that air; that I wonder not, if what the Author left ambiguous, the Translator has determin'd to the side of *Clientship* and *Dependency*.

BUT whatever may have been the Circumstance or Character of our Author himself; that of his *great* Friend ought in justice to have been consider'd by those former Criticks above-mention'd. So much, at least, shou'd have been taken notice of, that there was *a real* GREAT MAN characteriz'd, and suitable Measures of Address and Style preserv'd. But they who wou'd neither observe this, nor apprehend the Letter it-self to be *real*, were insufficient Criticks, and unqualify'd to judg of the Turn or Humour of a Piece, which they had never consider'd in a proper light.

'Tis become indeed so common a Practice among Authors, to feign a Correspondency, and give the Title of *a private Letter* to a Piece address'd solely to the *Publick*,

Misc. i. *Publick*, that it wou'd not be strange to  
 ~~~ see other *Journalists* and *Criticks*, as well as  
 the Gentlemen of PARIS, pass over such  
 Particularitys, as things of Form. This  
 Prejudice however cou'd not misguide a  
 chief Critick of the Protestant side; when  
 \* mentioning this *Letter concerning En-*  
*thusiasm*, he speaks of it as a real *Letter*,  
 (such as in truth it was) not a precise and  
 formal † *TREATISE*, design'd for *publick*  
 View.

IT will be own'd surely, by those who have learnt to judg of Elegancy and Wit by the help merely of modern Languages, That we cou'd have little Relish of the best *Letters* of a BALSAC or VOITURE, were we wholly ignorant of the *Characters* of the principal Persons to whom those *Letters* were actually written. But much less cou'd we find pleasure in this reading, shou'd we take it into our heads, that both the Personages and Correspondency it-self were merely fictitious. Let the best of TULLY's Epistles be read in such a narrow View as this, and they will cer-

\* *Ceux qui l'ont lué ont pu voir en général, que l'Auteur ne s'y est pas proposé un certain plan, pour traiter sa matière méthodiquement; parceque c'est une Lettre, & non un Traité.* Bibliotheque Choisie. Ibid. pag. 428.

† If in this joint Edition, with other Works, the Letter be made to pass under that general Name of *Treatise*; 'tis the Bookseller must account for it. For the Author's part, he considers it as no other than what it originally was.

cainly

tainly prove very insipid. If a real BRU-CH. 3.  
TUS, a real ATTICUS be not suppos'd, there will be no real CICERO. The elegant Writer will disappear: as will the vast Labour and Art with which this eloquent *Roman* writ those Letters to his illustrious Friends. There was no kind of Composition in which this great Author prided or pleas'd himself more than in this; where he endeavour'd to throw off the Mein of *the Philosopher* and *Orator*, whilst in effect he employ'd both his Rhetorick and Philosophy with the greatest Force. They who can read an *Epistle* or *Satir* of HORACE in somewhat better than a mere scholastick Relish, will comprehend that *the Concealment of Order* and *Method*, in this manner of Writing, makes the chief Beauty of the Work. They will own, that unless a Reader be in some measure appriz'd of the Characters of an AUGUSTUS, a MÆCENAS, a FLORUS, or a TREBATIUS, there will be little Relish in those *Satirs* or *Epistles* address'd in particular to the Courtiers, Ministers, and Great Men of the Times. Even the SATIRICK, or MISCELLANEOUS *Manner* of the polite Antients, requir'd as much *Order* as the most regular Pieces. But the *Art* was to destroy every such Token or Appearance, give an *extemporary Air* to what was writ, and make the *Effect* of Art be felt, without discover-

Misc. i. ing the *Artifice*. There needs no further  
 ↙ Explanation on this Head. Our Author  
 himself has said enough in his \* *Advice to  
 an Author*, particularly where he treats of  
 the *simple Style*, in contra-distinction to the  
 learned, the *formal*, or *methodick*.

'Tis a different Case indeed, when the Title of *Epistle* is improperly given to such Works as were never writ in any other view than that of being made publick, or to serve as Exercises or Specimens of the Wit of their Composer. Such were those infinite Numbers of *Greek* and *Latin Epistles*, writ by the antient *Sophists*, *Grammarians*, or *Rhetoricians*; where we find the real Character of the *Epistle*, the genuine Style and Manners of the corresponding Partys sometimes imitated; but at other times not so much as aim'd at, nor any Measures of *historical Truth* preserv'd. Such perhaps we may esteem even the Letters of a † *SENECA* to his Friend *LUCILIUS*. Or supposing that

philo-

\* VOL. I. pag. 233, 257, 258.

† 'Tis not the *Person*, *Character*, or *Genius*, but the *Style* and *Manner* of this great Man, which we presume to censure. We acknowledg his noble Sentiments and worthy Actions. We own the *Patriot*, and *good Minister*: But we reject the *Writer*. He was the first of any Note or Worth who gave credit to that *false Style* and *Manner* here spoken of. He might, on this account, be call'd in reality *The Corrupter of ROMAN Eloquence*. This indeed cou'd not but

philosophical Courtier had really such a Ch. 3.  
Correspondency ; and, at several times, ~~w~~  
had sent so many fair Epistles, honestly  
sign'd and seal'd, to his Country-friend at

a

but naturally, and of it-self, become relax and dissolute, after such a Relaxation and Dissolution of Manners, consequent to the Change of Government, and to the horrid Luxury and Effeminacy of the *Roman* Court, even before the time of a CLAUDIO<sup>S</sup>, or a NERO. There was no more possibility of making a Stand for Language, than for Liberty. As the World now stood, the highest Glory which cou'd be attain'd by mortal Man, was to be Mitigator or Moderator of that universal Tyranny already establish'd. To this I must add, That in every City, Principality, or smaller Nation, where *single WILL* prevails, and Court-power, instead of Laws or Constitutions, guides the State ; 'tis of the highest difficulty for the best Minister to procure a just, or even a tolerable Administration. Where such a Minister is found, who can but moderately influence the petty Tyranny, he deserves considerable Applause and Honour. But in the Case we have mention'd, where a universal Monarchy was actually establish'd, and the Interest of a whole World concern'd ; He surely must have been esteem'd a Guardian-Angel, who, as a prime Minister, cou'd, for several Years, turn the very worst of Courts, and worst-condition'd of all Princes, to the fatherly Care and just Government of Mankind. Such a Minister was SENECA under an AGRIPPINA and a NERO. And such he was acknowledg'd by the antient and never-sparing Satirists, who cou'd not forbear to celebrate, withal, his Generosity and Friendship in a private Life :

*Nemo petit, modicis quæ mittebantur amicis  
A SENECA; quæ PISO bonus, quæ COTTA solebat  
Largiri: namque & titulis, & fascibus olim  
Major habebatur donandi gloria.*

JUVENAL. SAT. V. VER. 108.

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*Quis tam  
Perditus, ut dubitet SENECAM præferre NERONI?  
Id. SAT. VIII. VER. 211.*

Misc. i. a distance ; it appears however by the ~~~~~~~ Epistles themselves, in their proper *Order*, (if they may be said to have any) that after a few Attempts at the beginning, the Author by degrees loses sight of his Correspondent, and takes the *World* in general for his Reader or Disciple. He falls into the random way of *Miscellaneous Writing* ; says every-where great and noble Things, in and out of the way, accidentally as *Words* led him (for with these he plays perpetually;) with infinite Wit, but with little or no Coherence ; without a Shape or Body to his Work ; without

This Remark is what I have been tempted to make by the way, on the *Character* of this *Roman Author*, more mistaken (if I am not very much so my-self) than any other so generally study'd. As for the *philosophick Character* or Function imputed to him, 'twas foreign, and no-way proper or peculiar to one who never assum'd so much as that of *Sophist*, or *Pensionary Teacher of Philosophy*. He was far wide of any such Order, or Profession. There is great difference between a Courtier who takes a Fancy for Philosophy, and a Philosopher who shou'd take a Fancy for a Court. Now SENECA was born a *Courtier* ; being Son of a *Court-Rhetor* : himself bred in the same manner, and taken into favour for his Wit and Genius, his admir'd Style and Eloquence ; not for his Learning in the Books of Philosophy and the Antients. For this indeed was not very profound in him. In short, he was a Man of wonderful Wit, Fluency of Thought and Language, an *able Minister*, and *honest Courtier*. And what has been deliver'd down to his prejudice, is by the common Enemy of all the free and generous ROMANS, that apish shallow Historian, and Court-Flatterer, DION CASSIUS, of a low Age, when *Barbarism* (as may be easily seen in his own Work) came on apace, and the very Traces and Features of Virtue, Science and Knowledg, were wearing out of the World.

a real \* Beginning, a Middle, or an End. Ch. 3. Of a hundred and twenty four Epistles, you ~~may~~ may, if you please, make five Hundred, or half a Score. A great-one, for instance, you may divide into five or six. A little-one you may tack to another; and that to another; and so on. The Unity of the Writing will be the same: The Life and Spirit full as well preserv'd. 'Tis not only *whole Letters* or *Pages* you may change and manage thus at pleasure: Every *Period*, every *Sentence* almost, is independent; and may be taken asunder, transpos'd, postpon'd, anticipated, or set in any new Order, as you fancy.

THIS is the Manner of Writing so much admir'd and imitated in our Age, that we have scarce the Idea of any other Model. We know little, indeed, of the Difference between one *Model* or *Character* of writing and another. All runs to the same Tune, and beats exactly one and the same Measure. Nothing, one wou'd think, cou'd be more tedious than this uniform *Pace*. The common *Amble* or *Canterbury* is not, I am perswaded, more tiresom to a good Rider, than this *see-saw* of ESSAY-WRITERS is to an able Reader. The

\* *Infra*, p. 259, 260. in the Notes. And VOL. I. p. 146.

Misc. i. just Composer of a legitimate Piece is like  
a Traveller, who exactly measures his Journey, considers his Ground, premeditates his Stages, and Intervals of Relaxation and Intention, to the very Conclusion of his Undertaking, that he happily arrives where he first propos'd when he set out. He is not presently upon the Spur, or in his full Career; but walks his Steed leisurely out of his Stable, settles himself in his Stirrups, and when fair Road and Season offer, puts on perhaps to a round Trot; thence into a Gallop, and after a while takes up. As Down, or Meadow, or shady Lane present themselves, he accordingly futes his Pace, favours his Palfry; and is sure not to bring him puffing, and in a heat, into his last Inn. But the Post-way is become highly fashionable with modern Authors. The very same stroke sets you out, and brings you in. Nothing stays, or interrupts. Hill or Valley; rough or smooth; thick or thin: No Difference; no Variation. When an Author sits down to write, he knows no other Business he has, than to be witty, and take care that his Periods be well turn'd, or (as they commonly say) run smooth. In this manner, he doubts not to gain the Character of bright. When he has writ as many Pages as he likes, or as his Run of Fancy wou'd permit; he then perhaps considers what Name he

he had best give to his new Writing: Ch. 3.  
whether he shou'd call it *Letter*, *Essay*,  
*Miscellany*, or aught else. The Bookseller  
perhaps is to determine this at last, when  
all, besides the Preface, Epistle Dedicato-  
ry, and Title-page, is dispatch'd.

— *Incertus scannum, faceretne Priapum.*

— — — — *Deus inde ego!*

Horat. Sat. 8. Lib. i. ver. 2.

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## MISCELLANY II.

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### C H A P. I.

*Review of ENTHUSIASM.—Its Defense, Praise:—Use in Business as well as Pleasure:—Operation by Fear, Love.—Modifications of Enthusiasm: Magnanimity; Heroick Virtue; Honour; Publick Zeal; Religion; Superstition; Persecution; Martyrdom.—Energy of the extatrick Devotion in the Tender Sex.—Account of antient Priesthood.—Religious War.—Reference to a succeeding Chapter.*

**W**HETHER in fact there be any real *Enchantment*, any Influence of Stars, any Power of *Dæmons* or of foreign Natures over our own Minds, is thought questionable by many. Some there are who assert the Negative,

Negative, and endeavour to solve the Ap-Ch. i.  
pearances of this kind by the natural Ope- ~~~~~  
ration of our Passions, and the common  
Course of outward Things. For my own  
part, I cannot but at this present apprehend a kind of *Enchantment* or *Magick* in  
that which we call ENTHUSIASM; since  
I find, that having touch'd slightly on this  
Subject, I cannot so easily part with it at  
pleasure.

AFTER having made some cursory  
Reflections on our Author's \* *Letter*, I  
thought I might have sufficiently acquitted  
my-self on this head; till passing to  
his next Treatise, I found my-self still  
further ingag'd. I perceiv'd plainly that  
I had as yet scarce enter'd into our Au-  
thor's *Humour*, or felt any thing of that  
*Passion*, which, as he informs us, is so ea-  
sily communicable and naturally engaging.  
But what I had pass'd over in my first Re-  
flections, I found naturally rising in me,  
upon second thoughts. So that by expe-  
rience I prov'd it true what our Author  
says †, "That we all of us know some-  
thing of this Principle." And now that  
I find I have in reality so much of it im-  
parted to me, I may with better reason be

\* *Viz.* Letter concerning ENTHUSIASM, above  
VOL. I. Treatise I.

† VOL. I. pag. 54.

pardon'd,

Misc. 2. pardon'd, if, after our Author's example,  
 ~~ I am led to write on such Subjects as these,  
 with Caution, at different *Reprises*; and  
 not singly, *in one Breath.*

I HAVE heard indeed that the very reading of Treatises and Accounts of *Melancholy*, has been apt to generate that Passion in the over-diligent and attentive Reader. And this perhaps may have been the reason, why our Author himself (as he seems to intimate towards the Conclusion of his first \* *Letter*) car'd not in reality to grapple closely with his Subject, or give us, at once, the precise Definition of ENTHUSIASM. This however we may, with our Author, presume to infer, from the coolest of all Studys, even from *Criticism* it-self, (of which we have been lately treating) † "That there is a Power in " Numbers, Harmony, Proportion, and " Beauty of every kind, which naturally " captivates the Heart, and raises the Imagination to an Opinion or Conceit of " something majestic and divine."

WHATEVER this Subject may be *in it-self*; we cannot help being transported with the thought of it. It inspires us with something more than ordinary, and

\* Viz. Treatise I. (*Letter of ENTHUSIASM*) VOL. I.  
 pag. 55. lin. 7.

† VOL. II. p. 75, 105, 400, &c.

raises

raises us above our-selves. Without this Ch. I. Imagination or Conceit, *the World* wou'd be but a dull Circumstance, and *Life* a sorry Pass-time. Scarce cou'd we be said to live. The animal Functions might in their course be carry'd on ; but nothing further sought for, or regarded. The gallant Sentiments, the elegant Fancys, the *Belle-passions*, which have, all of them, this BEAUTY in view, wou'd be set aside, and leave us probably no other Employment than that of satisfying our coarsest Appetites at the cheapest rate ; in order to the attainment of a supine State of Indolence and Inactivity.

SLENDER wou'd be the Enjoyments of the *Lover*, the *ambitious Man*, the *Warrior*, or the *Virtuoso*, (as our Author has \* elsewhere intimated) if in the Beautys which they admire, and passionately pursue, there were no reference or regard to any higher *Majesty* or *Grandure*, than what simply results from the particular Objects of their pursuit. I know not, in reality, what we shou'd do to find a seasoning to most of our Pleasures in Life, were it not for the Taste or Relish, which is owing to this particular Passion, and the Conceit or Imagination which supports it. Without this, we cou'd not so much as

\* VOL. II. pag. 400.

Misc. 2. admire a *Poem*, or a *Picture*; a *Garden*,  
 or a *Palace*; a charming *Shape*, or a *fair Face*. *Love* it-self wou'd appear the lowest thing in Nature, when thus anticipated, and treated according to the *Anti-enthusiastick Poet's* method :

\* *Et jacere humorem collectum in corpora quæque.*

How *Heroism* or *Magnanimity* must stand in this Hypothesis, is easy to imagine. The *Muses* themselves must make a very indifferent figure in this philosophical Draught. Even the Prince of † Poets wou'd prove a most insipid Writer, if he were thus reduc'd. Nor cou'd there, according to this Scheme, be yet a place of Honour left even for our † *Latin Poet*, the great Disciple of this un-polite Philosophy, who dares with so little Equity employ the *Muses* Art in favour of such a System. But in spite of his Philosophy, he everywhere gives way to *Admiration*, and *rapturous Views* of *NATURE*. He is transported with the several Beautys of the *WORLD*, even whilst he arraigns the Order of it, and destroys the Principle of

\* Lucret. lib. iv. ver. 1059.

† Οὐδὲν μέσος Ὁμίρω ἀθεον, ἐδὲ συνάσποεν, ἐδὲ  
 αἰχῆς ἔργον, ἀλλὰ πάντα μεσά δεῖων ὀνομάτων καὶ δεῖων  
 λόγων, καὶ δεῖας τέχνης. Maximus Tyr. *Dissert.* xvi.

‡ *Viz.* LUCRETIUS. As above, VOL. I. p. 52.

Beauty, from whence in antient Languages Ch. I.  
the \* WORLD it-self was nam'd.

THIS is what our Author advances; when in behalf of ENTHUSIASM he quotes its formal Enemys, and shews That they are as capable of it as its greatest Confessors and Assertors. So far is he from degrading *Enthusiasm*, or disclaiming it in himself; that he looks on this Passion, simply consider'd, as the most *natural*, and its Object as the *justest* in the World. Even VIRTUE it-self he takes to be no other than a noble *Enthusiasm* justly directed, and regulated by that high Standard which he supposes in the Nature of Things.

HE seems to assert, † “ That there are “ certain moral Species or Appearances so “ striking, and of such force over our Na-“ tures, that when they present themselves, “ they bear down all contrary Opinion or “ Conceit, all opposite Passion, Sensation, “ or mere bodily Affection.” Of this kind he makes VIRTUE it-self to be the chief: since of all Views or Contemplations, this, in his account, is the most na-

\* Κόσμος, Mundus. From whence that Expostulation, Ἡ ἐν σοι μὲν τις κόσμος ὑφίσαται δύναται, ἐν δὲ τῷ παντὶ ἀκοσμίᾳ; M. Ant. Lib. iv. 27. And that other Allusion to the same word, Κόσμον δέ ἐπέμψεις τὸ σύμπαν δλλ' ἐκ ἀκοσμίαν ὀνομάσσεις ἔν. Below, pag. 264. in the Notes.

† VOL. I. pag. 138, 139, &c. VOL. II. pag. 100, 104, 5, 6.

turally

Misc. 2. turally and strongly affecting. The exalted  
 ~~~~~ part of *Love* is only borrow'd hence. That  
 of pure *Friendship* is its immediate Self.  
 He who yields his Life a Sacrifice to his  
 Prince or Country ; the Lover who for his  
 Paramour performs as much ; the heroick,  
 the amorous, the religious *Martyrs*, who  
 draw their Views, whether visionary or  
 real, from this *Pattern* and *Exemplar* of  
 DIVINITY : all these, according to our  
 Author's Sentiment, are alike actuated by  
 this Passion, and prove themselves in effect  
 so many different *Enthusiasts*.

NOR is thorow *Honesty*, in his Hypothesis, any other than this Zeal, or Passion, moving strongly upon the *Species* or *View* of the DECORUM, and SUBLIME of Actions. Others may pursue \* different Forms, and fix their Eye on different Species, (as all Men do on one or other :) The real *honest Man*, however plain or simple he appears, has that highest Species, † *Honesty* it-self, in view ; and instead of outward Forms or Symmetrys, is struck with that of inward Character, the Harmony and Numbers of the Heart, and Beauty of the Affections, which form the Manners and Conduct of a truly *social* Life.

\* VOL. II. pag. 429, 430.

† *The Honestum, Pulchrum, τὸ Καλὸν, Πρεπόν.* *Infrā*,  
 pag. 182, &c.

'T is indeed peculiar to the Genius of that cool Philosophy \* above describ'd ; that as it denies the Order or Harmony of Things in general, so by a just Consequence and Truth of Reasoning, it rejects the Habit of admiring or being charm'd with whatever is call'd *Beautiful* in particular. According to the Regimen prescrib'd by this Philosophy, it must be acknowledg'd that the Evils of *Love*, *Ambition*, *Vanity*, *Luxury*, with other Disturbances deriv'd from the florid, high, and elegant Ideas of Things, must in appearance be set in a fair way of being radically cur'd.

IT need not be thought surprizing, that *Religion* it-self shou'd in the account of these Philosophers be reckon'd among those Vices and Disturbances, which it concerns us after this manner to extirpate. If the Idea of *Majesty* and *Beauty* in other inferior Subjects be in reality distracting ; it must chiefly prove so, in that *principal Subject*, the Basis and Foundation of this Conceit. Now if the *Subject* it-self be not in *Nature*, neither the Idea nor the Paffion grounded on it can be properly esteem'd *natural* : And thus all *Admiration* ceases ; and ENTHUSIASM is at an end. But

\* *Supra*, pag. 32. And VOL. I. pag. 48, 49, 117, &c.

if

Misc. 2. if there be *naturally* such a Passion ; 'tis  
 ~~~~~ evident that RELIGION it-self is of the  
 kind, and must be therefore *natural* to  
 Man.

WE can admire nothing profoundly,  
 without a certain religious Veneration.  
 And because this borders so much on *Fear*,  
 and raises a certain Tremor or Horror of  
 like appearance ; 'tis easy to give that Turn  
 to the Affection, and represent all EN-  
 THUSIASM and *religious Extasy* as the  
 Product or mere Effect of FEAR :

*Primus in orbe deos fecit timor.*

But the original Paffion, as appears plainly, is of another kind, and in effect is so confess'd by those who are the greatest Opposers of Religion, and who, as our Author observes, have shewn themselves sufficiently convinc'd, “ \* That altho' these “ Ideas of *Divinity* and *Beauty* were vain ; “ they were yet in a manner innate, or “ such as Men were really born to, and “ cou'd hardly by any means avoid.”

NOW as all Affections have their Excess, and require Judgment and Discretion to moderate and govern them ; so this high and noble Affection, which raises

\* Letter of ENTHUSIASM, VOL. I. pag. 49.

Man to Action, and is his Guide in Busi-Ch. i.  
ness as well as Pleasure, requires a steddy  Rein and strict Hand over it. All *Moralists*, worthy of any Name, have recogniz'd the Passion ; tho among these the wisest have prescrib'd Restraint, press'd *Moderation*, and to all *TYRÖ's* in Philosophy forbid the forward Use of Admiration, Rapture, or Extasy, even in the Subjects they esteem'd the highest, and most *divine*. They knew very well that the first Motion, Appetite, and Ardour of the Youth in general towards \* Philosophy and Knowledg, depended chiefly on this Turn of Temper : Yet were they well appriz'd, withal, That in the Progress of this Study, as well as in the affairs of Life, the florid Ideas and exalted Fancy of this kind became the Fuel of many incendiary Passions ; and that, in religious Concerns particularly, the Habit of Admiration and contemplative Delight, wou'd, by over-Indulgence, too easily mount into high *Fanaticism*, or degenerate into abject *Superstition*.

UPON the whole therefore, according to our Author, ENTHUSIASM is, in itself, a very natural *honest* Passion ; and has

\* So *The Stagirite* : Διὸς γὰς τὸ δαυμάζειν οἱ ἀνθρώποι καὶ  
τῦν καὶ τὸ πρᾶπτον ἡρξαῖο φιλοσοφεῖν. Metaph. Lib. i. Cap. 2.  
See below, pag. 202, 203. in the Notes.

Misc. 2. properly nothing for its Object but what  
 ~~ is \* *Good and Honest*. 'Tis apt indeed, he  
 confesses, to run astray. And by modern  
 example we know, perhaps yet better than  
 by any antient, that, in Religion, the EN-  
 THUSIASM which works *by Love*, is sub-  
 ject to many strange Irregularitys; and  
 that which works *by Fear*, to many mon-  
 strous and horrible Superstitions. *Mysticks*  
 and *Fanaticks* are known to abound as well  
 in our *Reform'd*, as in the *Romish* Chur-  
 ches. The pretended Floods of Grace  
 pour'd into the Bosoms of the *Quietists*,  
*Pietists*, and those who favour the extatick  
 way of Devotion, raise such Transports,  
 as by their own Profelytes are confess'd to  
 have something strangely agreeable, and  
 in common with what ordinary Lovers  
 are us'd to feel. And it has been re-  
 mark'd by many, That the *Female* Saints  
 have been the greatest Improvers of this  
*soft* part of Religion. What truth there  
 may be in the related Operations of this  
 pretended Grace and *amorous* Zeal, or in  
 the Accounts of what has usually past be-  
 tween the *Saints* of each Sex, in these de-  
 vot Extasys, I shall leave the Reader to  
 examine: supposing he will find credible  
 Accounts, sufficient to convince him of  
 the dangerous progres of ENTHUSIASM  
 in this amorous *Lineage*.

\* Τὸν λόγον γέγραπτόν.

THERE are many *Branches* indeed more vulgar, as that of FEAR, MELANCHOLY, CONSTERNATION, SUSPICION, DESPAIR. And when the Passion turns more towards the *astonishing* and *frightful*, than the *amiable* and *delightful* side, it creates rather what we call SUPERSTITION than ENTHUSIASM. I must confess withal, that what we commonly style Zeal in matters of Religion, is seldom without a mixture of both these Extravagancys. The extatrick Motions of *Love* and *Admiration*, are seldom un-accompany'd with the *Horrors* and *Conternations* of a lower sort of Devotion. These Paroxysms of Zeal are in reality as the hot and cold Fits of an Ague, and depend on the different and occasional *Views* or *Aspects* of the DIVINITY; according as the Worshiper is \* guided from without, or affected from within, by his particular Constitution. Seldom are those *Aspects* so determinate and fix'd, as to excite constantly one and the same Spirit of Devotion. In Religions therefore, which hold most of *Love*, there is generally room left for *Terrors* of the deepest kind. Nor is there any Religion so diabolical, as, in its representation of DIVINITY, to leave no room for *Admiration* and *Esteem*. Whatever Personage or

\* *Infra*, pag. 130.

Misc. 2. *Specter of DIVINITY* is worship'd; a ~~~~~~~ certain *Esteem* and *Love* is generally affected by his Worshipers. Or if, in the Devotion paid him, there be in truth no real or absolute *Esteem*; there is however a certain astonishing *Delight* or *Ravishment* excited.

THIS Passion is experienc'd, in common, by every Worshiper of the Zealot-kind. The Motion, when un-guided, and left wholly to it-self, is in its nature turbulent and incentive. It disjoints the natural Frame, and relaxes the ordinary Tone or Tenor of the Mind. In this Disposition the Reins are let loose to all Passion which arises: And *the Mind*, as far as it is able to act or think in such a State, approves the Riot, and justifies the wild Effects, by the suppos'd Sacredness of *the Cauſe*. Every Dream and Frenzy is made INSPIRATION; every Affection, ZEAL. And in this Persuasion the Zealots, no longer self-govern'd, but set adrift to the wide Sea of Passion, can in one and the same Spirit of Devotion, exert the opposite Passions of *Love* and *Hatred*; unite affectionately, and abhor furiously; curse, bleſs, ſing, mourn, exult, tremble, careſs, affaſſinate, inflict and ſuffer \* MARTYRDOM, with

a

\* A Paſſage of History comes to my mind, as it is cited by an eminent *Divine* of our own Church, with regard to that

a thousand other the most vehement Efforts of variable and contrary Affection. 

THE common *Heathen* Religion, especially in its latter Age, when adorn'd with the most beautiful Temples, and render'd more illustrious by the Munificence of the ROMAN Senate and succeeding Emperors, ran wholly into Pomp, and was supported chiefly by that sort of ENTHUSIASM, which is rais'd from the \* external Objects of *Grandure, Majesty*, and what we call *August*. On the other side, the EGYPTIAN or SYRIAN Religions, which lay more in *Mystery* and conceal'd *Rites*; having less Dependence on the Magistrate, and less of that *Decorum* of Art,

that *Spirit of MARTYRDOM* which furnishes, it seems, such solid Matter for the Opinion and Faith of many Zealots. The Story, in the words of our *Divine*, and with his own Reflections on it, is as follows : " Two Franciscans offer'd themselves to the Fire to prove *Savanorola* to be a Heretick. But a certain *Jacobine* offer'd himself to the Fire to prove that *Savanorola* had true Revelations, and was no Heretick. In the mean time *Savanorola* preach'd; but made no such confident Offer, nor durst he venture at that new kind of Fire-Ordeal. And put Case, all four had pass'd thro' the Fire, and died in the flames; What wou'd that have prov'd? Had he been a Heretick, or no Heretick, the more, or the less, for the Confidence of these zealous Idiots? If we mark it, a great many Arguments whereon many *Seets* rely, are no better Probation than this comes to." Bishop *Taylor* in his dedicatory Discourse, before his *Liberty of Prophecying*. See *Letter of Enthusiasm*, VOL I. pag. 26, &c.

\* *Infra*, p. 90, 91.

Misc. 2. Politeness, and Magnificence, ran into a  
 ↗ more *pusillanimous*, *frivolous*, and *mean*  
 kind of SUPERSTITION; “The Obser-  
 “vation of Days, the Forbearance of  
 “Meats, and the Contention about Tra-  
 “ditions, Seniority of Laws, and \* Priority  
 “of *Godships*.”

— — — — — *Summus utrinque*  
*Inde furor vulgo, quod numina vicino-*  
*rum*  
*Odit uterque locus, quam solos credat ba-*  
*bendos*  
*Esse deos, quos ipse colit.* — — —

HISTORY, withal, informs us of a certain Establishment in EGYPT, which was very extraordinary, and must needs have had a very uncommon effect; no way advantageous to that Nation in particular, or to the general Society of Mankind. We know very well, that nothing is more injurious to the *Police*, or municipal Constitution of any City or Colony, than the forcing of a particular Trade: Nothing more dangerous than the over-peopling any Manufacture, or multiplying the *Traders*, or *Dealers*, of whatever Vocation, beyond their natural Proportion, and the publick *Demand*. Now it happen'd of old, in this Mother-Land of Superstition,

\* Juvenal, *Sat.* xv. ver. 35. See VOL. II. p. 387, 388.

that

that \* the Sons of certain Artists were by Ch. 1. Law oblig'd always to follow the same  Calling with their Fathers. Thus the Son of a Priest was always a Priest by Birth, as was the whole Lineage after him, without interruption. Nor was it a Custom with this Nation, as with others, to have only † one single Priest or Priestess to a Temple: but as the Number of Gods and Temples was infinite; so was that of the

\* Ἐσι δέ Ἀιγυπτίων ἑπτὰ γένεα. Καὶ τέτων, οἱ μὲν,  
Ἴρες, οἱ δὲ, Μάχιμοι κεκλέασαι. — Οὐδὲ τέπτιοι ἔχεσι  
τέχνην ἐπασκήσαι ἀδεμίν, ἀλλὰ τὰ ἐς πόλεμον ἐπασκένεσι  
μῆνα, ταῖς παρὰ πατέρος ἐκδεκόμενοι. Herodot. L. ii. §. 164.

Ἴραται δὲ ἐκ εἰς ἕκάτου τῷ Θεῶν, ἀλλὰ τολλοὶ — ἐπεὰν  
δέ τις ἀποδάνη, τέτε ο παῖς αὐλικατίσασαι. Ibid. §. 37.

† Tūs δὲ χώρας ἀπόσις εἰς τεία μέρη διῃρέενται, &c.  
Cum tota regio in tres partes divisa sit, primam sibi portionem vendicat ordo sacerdotum, magnā apud indigenas auctoritate pollens, tum ob pietatem in deos, tum quod multam ex eruditione scientiam ejusmodi homines afferunt. Ex redditibus autem suis cuncta per Aegyptum sacrificia procurant, ministros alunt; & propriis commoditatibus ancillantur, ταῖς idīas χρέias χρηγύζειν. Non enim (Aegyptii) existimant fas esse deorum honores mutari, sed semper ab eisdem eodem ritu peragi, neque eos necessariorum copiā desituti qui in commune omnibus consulunt. In universum namque de maximis rebus consulentes, indefinenter Regi præstō sunt, in nonnullis tanquam participes imperii, in aliis reges, duces & magistri (συνεργοὶ, εἰσηγήσαται, διδάσκαλοι) existentes. Ex astrologia quoque & sacrorum inspectione, futura prædicunt, atque ē sacrorum librorum scriptis res gestas cum utilitate conjunctas prælegunt. Non enim, ut apud Græcos, unus tantummodo vir, aut fœmina una, sacerdotio fungitur; sed complures sacrificia & honores déum obeuentes, liberis suis eandem vitæ rationem quasi per manus tradunt. Hi autem cunctis oneribus sunt immunes, & primos post Regem honoris & potestatis gradus obtinent. Diod. Sic. lib. i. pag. 66.

Misc. 2. Priests. The Religious Foundations were  
without Restriction : and to one single  
Worship or Temple, as many of the Holy  
Order might be Retainers, as cou'd raise a  
Maintenance from the Office.

WHATEVER happen'd to other Races  
or Professions, that of the *Priest*, in all  
likelihood, must, by this Regulation, have  
propagated the most of any. 'Tis a  
tempting Circumstance ; to have so easy  
a Mastery over the World ; to subdue by  
Wit instead of Force ; to practise on the  
Passions, and triumph over the Judgment  
of Mankind ; to influence private Fami-  
lys, and publick Councils ; conquer Con-  
querors ; controul the Magistrate himself,  
and govern without the Envy which at-  
tends all other Government or Superiority.  
No wonder if such a *Profession* was apt to  
multiply : especially when we consider the  
easy Living and Security of the *Professors*,  
their Exemption from all Labour, and  
Hazard ; the suppos'd Sacredness of their  
Character ; and their free Possession of  
*Wealth, Grandure, Estates, and Women.*

THERE was no need to invest such  
*a Body* as this, with rich Lands and ample  
Territorys, as it happen'd in EGYPT. The  
*Generation* or *Tribe* being once set  
apart as sacred, wou'd, without further  
encouragement, be able, no doubt, in  
process

process of time, to establish themselves a Ch. i. plentiful and growing *Fund*, or religious ~~Land-Bank~~ *Land-Bank*. 'Twas a sufficient *Donative*, to have had only that *single Privilege* from the \* Law; "That they might retain "what they cou'd get; and that it might "be lawful for their Order to receive such "Estates by voluntary Contribution, as "cou'd never afterwards be converted to "other Uses."

Now if, besides the Method of Propagation by *Descent*, other Methods of Increase were allow'd in this Order of Men; if *Volunteers* were also admitted at pleasure, without any Stint or Confinement to a certain Number; 'tis not difficult to imagine how enormous the Growth wou'd be of such a Science or Profession, thus recogniz'd by the *Magistrate*, thus invested with *Lands* and *Power*, and thus intitled to whatever extent of *Riches* or *Possession* cou'd be acquir'd by Practice and Influence over the superstitious part of Mankind.

THERE were, besides, in EGYPT some natural Causes of Superstition, beyond those which were common to other Regions. This Nation might well abound in *Prodigys*, when even their Country and Soil it-self was a kind of *Prodigy* in Nature. Their solitary idle Life, whilst shut

\* *Infra*, p. 79.

Misc. 2. up in their Hous-es by the regular Inundations of the NILE ; the unwhole-som Va-pours arising from the new Mud, and slimy Relicts of their River, expos'd to the hot Suns ; their various Meteors and *Phæno-men-a* ; with the long Vacancy they had to obser-ve and comment on them ; the ne-cessity, withal, which, on the account of their Navigation, and the Measure of their yearly drowned Lands, compell'd them to promote the Studys of *Astronomy* and other *Sciences*, of which their Priest-hood cou'd make good advan-tages : All these may be reckon'd, perhaps, as additional Causes of the immense Growth of Superstition, and the enormous Increase of the Priest-hood in this fertile Land.

'TWILL however, as I conceive, be found unquestionably true, according to political Arithmetick, in every Nation what-so-ever ; "That the *Quantity* of Su-  
"PERSTITION (if I may so speak)  
"will, in proportion, nearly answer the  
"Number of Priests, Diviners, Sooth-  
"sayers, Prophets, or such who gain  
"their Liveli-hood, or receive Advantages  
"by officiating in religious Affairs." For if these *Dealers* are numerous, they will force a Trade. And as the liberal Hand of the Magistrate can easily raise Swarms of this kind, where they are already but in a moderate proportion ; so where, thro'

any other cause, the Number of these in-Ch. 1. creasing still, by degrees, is suffer'd to grow  $\curvearrowleft \curvearrowright$  beyond a certain measure, they will soon raise such a Ferment in Mens Minds, as will at least compel the Magistrate, however sensible of the Grievance, to be cautious in proceeding to *a Reform.*

WE may observe in other necessary Professions, rais'd on the Infirmitys and Defects of Mankind, (as for instance, in *Law* and *Phyfick*) " That with the least " help from the Bounty or Beneficence of " the Magistrate, the Number of the Pro- " fessors, and the Subject-matter of the " Profession, is found over and above in- " creasing." New Difficultys are started : New Subjects of Contention : *Deeds* and *Instruments* of Law grow more numerous and prolix : *Hypotheses*, *Methods*, *Regi- mens*, more various ; and the *Materia Me- dica* more extensive and abundant. What, in process of time, must therefore naturally have happen'd in the case of *Religion*, among the EGYPTIANS, may easily be gather'd.

NOR is it strange that we shou'd find the \* *Property* and *Power* of the *Egyptian Priest-*

\* Which was one Third. Βελοφίνη δὲ τὸν ΙΣΙΝ, &c. Sed cum I sis lucro etiam Sacerdotes invitare vellet ad cul- tus istos, (nempe OSIRIDIS, mariti fato functi) tertiam eis terrae partem eis περιστέλλει, ad Deorum ministeria ἐ sacra

Misc. 2. Priesthood, in antient days, arriv'd to such  
 ~~~~ a height, as in a manner to have swallow'd up the State and Monarchy. A worse Accident befel the *Perſian* Crown, of which the Hierarchy having got absolute poſſeſſion, had once a fair Chance for Universal Empire. Now that the *Perſian* or *Babylonian* Hierarchy was much after the Model of the *Egyptian*, tho' different perhaps in Rites and Ceremonys, we may well judg; not only from the History of the \* *MAGI*, but from what is recorded of antient Colonys ſent long before by the *Egyptians* into † *Chaldea* and the adjacent Countrys. And whether the *Ethiopian* Model was from that of EGYPT, or the *Egyptian* from that of ETHIOPIA, (for ‡ each Nation had its pretence) we know by remarkable \*\* Effects, that the *Ethiopian* Empire was once in the same Con-

*ſacra munia, fruendam donavit.* Diod. Sic. lib. i. A remarkable Effect of Female Superftition! See also the Paſſage of the fame Historian, cited above, pag. 43. in the Notes.

\* See Treatife II. viz. *Sensus Communis*, (VOL. I.) pag. 85, &c. *Herodotus* gives us the History at length in his third Book.

† Diod. Sic. lib. i. p. 17, & 73.

‡ Herodot. Euterpe; & Diod. Sic. lib. iii.

\*\* Κατὰ τὴν Μερόν οἱ ἀεὶ τὰς ἥδη Θεῶν Δεεγμεῖας τε καὶ πυᾶς διατείχεται ἵστεις, &c. Qui in Meroe (urbe, & insula primaria Æthiopum) Deorum cultus & honores adi- nistrant sacerdotes, (ordo autem hic maximâ pollet auctori- tate) quandocumque ipsis in mentem venerit, misso ad Regem nuncio, vitâ ſe illum abdicare jubent. Oraculis enim Deorum hoc

Condition : the State having been wholly Ch. i. swallow'd in the exorbitant Power of their landed Hierarchy. So true it is, " That " Dominion must naturally follow Property." Nor is it possible, as I conceive, for any State or Monarchy to withstand the Encroachments of a growing Hierarchy, founded on the *Model* of these *Egyptian* and *Afiatick* Priesthoods. No SUPERSTITION will ever be wanting among the Ignorant and Vulgar, whilst the Able and Crafty have a power to gain Inheritances and Possessions by working on this *human Weakness*. This is a Fund which, by these Allowances, will prove inexhaustible. New Modes of Worship, new Miracles, new Heroes, Saints, Divinitys (which, serve as new Occasions for sacred DONATIVES) will be easily supply'd on the part of the reli-

*hoc edici : nec fas esse ab ullo mortalium, quod Dii immortales jussissent, contemni.*—So much for their Kings. For as to Subjects, the Manner was related a little before. *Unus ex lictoribus ad reum mittitur, signum mortis præferens : quo ille viso, domum abiens sibi mortem conciscit.* This, the People of our days wou'd call Passive-Obedience and Priestcraft, with a witness. But our Historian proceeds—*Et per superiores quidem ætates, non armis aut vi coacti, sed meræ superstitionis, utr' àvt̄ns tñs deorūq; fascino, mente capti reges sacerdotibus morem gesserunt : donec ERGAMENES, Æthiopum rex, (PTOLOMÆO secundo rerum potiente) Græcorum disciplinæ & philosophiæ particeps, mandata illa primus adsperrnari ausus fuit. Nam hic animo, qui regem deceret, sumito, cum militum manu in locum inaccessum, ubi aurcum fuit templum Æthiopum, profectus ; omnes illos sacrificios jugularavit, & abolito more pristino, sacra pro arbitrio suo instauravit.* Diod. Sic. lib. iii.

gious

Misc. 2. gious Orders ; whilst the Civil Magistrate ~~never~~ authorizes the accumulative DONATION, and neither restrains the Number or Possessions of the Sacred Body.

WE find, withal, that in the early days of this antient Priestly Nation of whom we have been speaking, 'twas thought expedient also, for the increase of Devotion, to enlarge their System of DEITY ; and either by mystical Genealogy, Consecration, or Canonization, to multiply their reveal'd Objects of Worship, and raise new Personages of DIVINITY in their Religion. They proceeded, it seems, in process of time, to increase the \* Number of their Gods, so far that, at last, they became in a manner numberless. What odd Shapes, Species, and Forms of Deity were in latter times exhibited, is well known. Scarce an Animal or Plant but was adopted into some share of Divinity.

† *O sanctas Gentes, quibus hæc nascuntur in hortis  
Numina ! —*

No wonder if by a Nation so abounding in religious Orders, spiritual Conquests

\* Ως δὲ αὐτοὶ λέγοσι, ἔτεδ ἐστι ἐπίλανχίναι καὶ μύεια  
ἐστι Αμασιν βασιλεύσαται, ἐπειδὴ εἰς τὴν ἡμέραν ὀκτώθεων οἱ δυάδεις Θεοὶ ἐγένοντο. Herodot. lib. ii. sect. 43.

† Juvenal. Sat. xv. ver. 10.

were

were fought in foreign Countrys, \* Colo- Ch. i.  
nys led abroad, and Missionarys detach'd, ~~on~~  
on Expeditions, in this prosperous Service.  
'Twas thus a *Zealot*-People, influenc'd of  
old by their very Region and Climate, and  
who thro' a long Tract of Time, under a  
peculiar Policy, had been rais'd both by  
Art and Nature to an immense Growth in  
religious Science and Mystery ; came by  
degrees to spread their variety of Rites and  
Ceremonys, their distinguishing Marks of  
*separate* Worships and *secrete* Communitys,  
thro' the distant World ; but chiefly thro'  
their neighbouring and dependent Countrys.

WE understand from History, that even  
when the EGYPTIAN State was least  
powerful in *Arms*, it was still respected for  
its *Religion* and *Mysterys*. It drew Stran-  
gers from all Parts to behold its Wonders.  
And the Fertility of its Soil forc'd the  
adjacent People, and wandring Nations,  
who liv'd dispers'd in single Tribes, to  
visit them, court their Alliance, and folli-  
cit a Trade and Commerce with them,  
on whatsoever Terms. The Strangers, no  
doubt, might well receive religious Rites

\* Οἱ δὲ ἐν Ἀιγύπτῳ, &c. *Ægyptii plurimas colonias ex*  
*Ægypto in orbem terrarum disseminatas fuisse dicunt. In*  
*Babylonem colonos deduxit Belus, qui Neptuni & Libyæ filius*  
*habetur : & posita ad Euphratrem sede, instituit sacerdotes ad*  
*morem Ægyptiorum exemptos imperiis & oneribus publicis,*  
*quos Babylonii vocant Chaldaeos, qui, exemplo Sacerdotum &*  
*Physicorum, Astrologorumque in Ægypto, observant stellas.*  
Diod. Sic. lib. i. p. 17. Ibid. p. 73.

and

Misc. 2. and Doctrines from those, to whom they  
 ~~~~ ow'd their Maintenance and Bread.

BEFORE the time that ISRAEL was constrain'd to go down to EGYPT, and sue for Maintenance to these powerful *Dynastys* or Low-Land States, the Holy *Patriarch*\* ABRAM himself had been necessitated to this Compliance on the same account. He apply'd in the same manner to the EGYPTIAN Court. He was at first well receiv'd, and handsomly presented ; but afterwards ill us'd, and out of favour with the Prince, yet suffer'd to depart the Kingdom, and retire with his Effects ; without any attempt of recalling him again by force, as it happen'd in the case of his Posterity. 'Tis certain that if this holy *Patriarch*, who first instituted the sacred Rite of *Circumcision* within his own Family or Tribe, had no regard to any Policy or Religion of the EGYPTIANS ; yet he had formerly been a Guest and Inhabitant in EGYPT (where † Historians mention this to have been a national Rite ;)

\* Gen. cap. xii. ver. 10, &c.

† Abramus, quando Ægyptum ingressus est, nondum circumcisus erat, neque per annos amplius viginti post redditum. — Illius posteri circumcisi sunt, & ante introitum, & dum in Ægypto commorati sunt : post exitum vero non sunt circumcisi, quare vixit Moses. — Fecit itaque Josue cultros lapideos, & circumcidit filios Israel in Colle Præputiorum. Factum Deus ratum habuit, dixitque, Hodie ἀφέτε τὸ ὑπόσθιον Ἀγρύπτων, abstuli opprobrium Ægypti à vobis. *Josue*

Rite;) long \* ere he had receiv'd any Ch. i.  
divine Notice or Revelation, concerning ~~~  
this Affair. Nor was it in *Religion* mere-  
ly that this reverend Guest was said to  
have deriv'd Knowldg and Learning from  
the EGYPTIANS. 'Twas from this *Pa-*  
*rent-Country* of *occult Sciences*, that he  
was presum'd, together with other Wis-  
dom, to have learnt that of † *judicial*  
*Astrology*; as his Successors did afterwards  
other propheticl and miraculous Arts,  
proper to the MAGI, or *Priesthood* of this  
Land.

ONE cannot indeed but observe, in after  
times, the strange Adherence and servile  
Dependency of the whole HEBREW Race  
on the EGYPTIAN Nation. It appears  
that tho they were of old abus'd in the  
Person of their grand Patriarch; tho af-  
terwards held in bondage, and treated as  
the most abject Slaves; tho twice expel'd,  
or necessitated to save themselves by  
flight, out of this oppressive Region; yet  
in the very instant of their last Retreat,

*Josue cap. 5. ver. 3. Tam Ægyptiis quām Judæis opprobriis  
erant incircumcis. — Apud Ægyptios circumcidendi ritus  
vetustissimus fuit, οπ' ἀρχῆς ab ipso initio institutus. Illi  
nullorum aliorum hominum institutis uti volunt. Herodot. lib.  
2. cap. 91. Τὰ αἰδηῖα ὥλαι τὸ ἔωσιν αἱ ἐγένοντο, πλὴν δύο  
οπὸ τέτων ἔμεσον Ἀγύπτιοι δὲ πειράμανται. Herod.  
lib. ii. cap. 36. Marshami Chronicus Canon, p. 72.*

\* Gen. cap. xvii.

† Julius Firmicus, apud Marshamum, p. 452, 453.

Misc. 2. whilst they were yet on their March, ~~~ conducted by visible Divinity, supply'd and fed from Heaven, and supported by continual Miracles ; they notwithstanding inclin'd so strongly to the Manners, the Religion, Rites, Diet, Customs, Laws, and Constitutions of their tyrannical Masters, that it was with the utmost difficulty they could be with-held from \* returning again into the same Subjection. Nor could their great Captains and Legislators prevent their † relapsing

\* It can scarce be said in reality, from what appears in Holy Writ, that their Retreat was voluntary. And for the Historians of other Nations, they have presum'd to assert that this People was actually expel'd EGYPT on account of their Leprosy ; to which the Jewish Laws appear to have so great a Reference. Thus TACITUS : *Plurimi auctores consentient, orta per Aegyptum tare, quæ corpora fædaret, regem Octhorim, adito Hammonis oraculo, remedium petentem, purgare regnum, & id genus hominum ut invisum Deis, alias in terras avehere jussum.* Sic conquistum collectumque vulgus,

*Mosen unum monuisse, &c.* Hist. lib. v. c. 3. *Aegyptii, quum scabiem & vitilinem paterentur, responso moniti eum (Mosen) cum ægris, ne pestis ad plures serperet, terminis Aegypti pellunt.* Dux igitur exulum factus, sacra Aegyptiorum furto abstulit : quæ repetentes armis Aegyptii, domum redire tempestatibus compulsi sunt. Justin. lib. xxxvi. c. 2. And in Marsham we find this remarkable Citation from Manetho : *Amenophin regem affectasse Θεῶν γνέδαις δεατὸν, ὅσπερ Ωρ εἴς τῶν πεδὸν ἀντὸν βεβασιλευκόπων, Deorum esse contemplatorem, sicut Orum quendam Regum priorum.* Cui responsum est, ὅτι Δυνάζεται θεὸς ἰδεῖν, quod posset videre Deos, si Regionem à leprosis & immundis hominibus purgaret. Chronicus Canon, p. 52.

† See what is cited above (p. 52. in the Notes from Marsham) of the Jews returning to Circumcision under JOSHUA, after a Generation's Intermission : This being approv'd by God,

lapsing perpetually into the same Wor-Ch. i.  
ship to which they had been so long ac- ~~use~~  
custom'd.

How far the divine Providence might have indulg'd the stubborn Habit and stupid Humour of this People; by giving them *Laws* (as the \* Prophet says) which  
he

God, for the reason given, “*That it was taking from them the Reproach of the Egyptians, or what render'd them odious and impious in the eyes of that People.*” Compare with this the Passage concerning Moses himself, *Exod. iv. 18, 25, 26.* (together with *Act. vii. 30, 34.*) where in regard to the *Egyptians*, to whom he was now returning when fourscore years of Age, he appears to have circumcis'd his Children, and taken off this National *Reproach*: *ZIPPORAH* his Wife, nevertheless, reproaching him with the Bloodiness of the Deed; to which she appears to have been a Party only thro' Necessity, and in fear rather of her Husband, than of GOD.

\* *Ezek. xx. 25. Act. xv. 10.* Of these *Ægyptian Institutions* receiv'd amongst the *Jews*, see our *SPENCER.* *Cum morum quorundam antiquorum toleratio vi magnâ polleret, ad Hebræorum animos Dei legi & cultui conciliandus, & à reformatione Mosaicâ invidiam omnem amoliretur; maximè conveniebat, ut Deus ritus aliquos antiquitatis usitatos in sacrorum suorum numerum assumeret, & lex à Mose data speciem aliquam cultus olim recepti ferret.* — *Ita nempe nati factique erant Israelite, ex Ægypto recens egressi, quod Deo penè necesse esset (humanitatis loqui fas sit) rituum aliquorum veterum usum iis indulgere, & illius instituta ad eorum morem & modulum accommodare.* Nam populus erat à teneris Ægypti moribus assuetus, & in iis multorum annorum usu confirmatus. — *Hebrei, non tantum Ægypti moribus assueti, sed etiam refractarii fuerunt.* — *Quemadmodum cuiusque regionis & terræ populo sua sunt ingenia, moresque proprii, ita natura gentem Hebræorum, præter cæteros orbis incolas, ingenio moroso, difficiili, & ad infamiam usque pertinaci, fixit.* — *Cum itaque veteres Hebrei moribus essent asperis & efferatis adeò, populi conditio postulavit.*

Misc. 2. *be himself approv'd not, I have no Inten-*  
*tion to examine.* This only I pretend  
 to infer from what has been advanc'd ;  
 " That the Manners, Opinions, Rites and  
 " Customs of the EGYPTIANS, had, in  
 " the earliest times, and from Genera-  
 " tion to Generation, strongly influenc'd  
 " the HEBREW People (their Guests, and  
 " Subjects) and had undoubtedly gain'd  
 " a powerful Ascendency over their Na-  
 " tures."

How extravagant soever the multi-  
 tude of the EGYPTIAN *Superstitions*  
 may appear, 'tis certain that their *Doc-  
 trine* and *Wisdom* were in high repute ;  
 since it is taken notice of in Holy Scrip-  
 ture, as no small Advantage even to Mo-

*vit, ut Deus ritus aliquos usu veteri firmatos iis concederet,*  
*& νομινὸν λαζέαν τῷ ἑαυτῷ ἀδενέᾳ συμβαίνεσσαν* (uti lo-  
 quitur Theodoretus) *cultum legalem eorum infirmitati ac-  
 commodatum insituerit. — Hebrei superstitionis gens e-  
 rant, & omni pene literaturā destituti. Quam aliae Gentium  
 superstitionibus immergebantur, & legibus intelligere licet, quae  
 populo tanquam remedia superstitionis irrponebantur. Contu-  
 max autem bellua supersticio, si praesertim ab ignorantia tene-  
 bris novam ferociam & contumaciam hauferit. Facile verò  
 credi potest, Israelitas, nuper & servorum domo liberatos, ar-  
 tium humaniorum rudes fuisse, & vix quicquam supra lateres  
 atque allium Ægypti sapuisse. Quando itaque Deo jam nego-  
 tium esset, cum populo tam barbaro, & superstitioni tam im-  
 pensè dedito ; penè necesse fuit, ut aliquid eorum infirmitati  
 daret, eosque dolo quodam (non argumentis) ad seipsum alli-  
 ceret. Nullum animal superstitionis, rudi præcipue, morosius  
 est, aut majori arte tractandum. SPENCERUS de Leg.  
 Hebr. pag. 627, 628, 629.*

ses himself, “ \* That he had imbib’d *the Ch. 1.*  
 “ *Wisdom* of this Nation ;” which, as is ~~now~~  
 well known, lay chiefly among their *Priests*  
 and *MAGI*.

BEFORE the Time that the great *Hebrew* Legislator receiv’d his Education among these *Sages*, a † *Hebrew Slave*, who came a Youth into the *Egyptian* Court, had already grown so powerful in this kind of Wisdom, as to outdo the chief *Diviners*, *Prognosticators*, and *Interpreters* of EGYPT. He rais’d himself to be chief Minister to a Prince, who, following his Advice, obtain’d in a manner the whole *Property*, and consequently the *absolute Dominion* of that Land. But to what height of Power the establish’d Priesthood was arriv’d even at that time, may be conjectur’d hence; “ That *the Crown* (to speak in a modern Style) “ offer’d not to “ meddle with the *Church-Lands*;” and that in this great *Revolution* nothing was

\* (1.) Καὶ ἐπαιδεύθη Μωϋς ΠΑΣΗΣ ΣΟΦΙΑΣ  
*Aἰγυπτίων* ἢν δὲ δυνάτος ἐν λόγοις καὶ ἐν ἔργοις. Act. Apost.  
 cap. vii. ver. 22.

(2.) Exod. cap. vii. ver. 11, & 22.

(3.) Ibid. cap. viii. ver. 7.

(4.) Justin. lib. xxxvi. cap. 2.

† Gen. cap. xxxix, &c. *Minimus aetate inter fratres Joseph fuit, cuius excellens ingenium veriti fratres clam intercep- tum peregrinis mercatoribus vendiderunt. A quibus deportatus in Aegyptum, cum magicas ibi artes solerti ingenio percepisset, brevi ipsi Regi percarus fuit* Justin. lib. xxxvi. c. 2.

Misc. 2. attempted, so much as by way of Purchase or Exchange \*, in prejudice of this *Landed Clergy*: The prime Minister himself having join'd his Interest with theirs, and enter'd † by Marriage into their Alliance. And in this he was follow'd by the great Founder of the *Hebrew-State*: for he also ‡ match'd himself with the Priesthood of some of the neighbouring Nations, and Traders \*\* into EGYPT, long ere his Establishment of the HEBREW Religion and Commonwealth. Nor had he perfected his *Model*, till he consulted the foreign Priest his †† Father-in-law, to whose Advice he paid such remarkable Deference.

BUT TO resume the Subject of our Speculation, concerning the wide Diffusion of the Priestly Science or Function ; it appears from what has been said, that notwithstanding the EGYPTIAN Priesthood was, by antient Establishment, hereditary ; the Skill of *Divining*, *Soothsaying*, and *Magick* was communicated to others besides their national sacred Body : and that the *Wisdom* of the MAGICIANS, the Power

\* Gen. xlviij. ver. 22, 26.

† Gen. xli. ver. 45.

‡ Exod. chap. iii. ver. 1. and chap. xviii. ver. 1, &c.

\*\* Such were the *Midianites*, Gen. xxxvii. ver. 28, 36.

†† Exod. xviii. ver. 17—24.

of *Miracles*, their Interpretation of *Dreams* Ch. 1. and *Visions*, and their Art of administering  in Divine Affairs, were entrusted even to *Foreigners* who resided amongst them.

IT appears, withal, from these Considerations, how apt the *religious Profession* was to spread it-self widely in this Region of the World; and what Efforts wou'd naturally be made by the more necessitous of these unlimited Professors, towards a Fortune, or Maintenance, for themselves and their Successors.

COMMON Arithmetick will, in this Case, demonstrate to us, " That as the " Proportion of so many *Lay-men* to each " *Priest* grew every day less and less, so " the Wants and Necessitys of each *Priest* " must grow more and more." The *Magistrate* too, who according to this EGYPTIAN Regulation had resign'd his Title or share of Right in sacred Things, cou'd no longer govern, as he pleas'd, in these Affairs, or check the growing Number of these *Professors*. The spiritual Generations were left to prey on others, and (like *Fish* of Prey) even on themselves, when destitute of other Capture, and confin'd within too narrow Limits. What Method, therefore, was there left to heighten the ZEAL of Worshipers, and augment their *Liberality*, but " to foment their *Emula-*

Misc. 2. " *tion*, prefer Worship to Worship, Faith  
 ~~~~~ " to Faith; and turn the Spirit of E N T H U-  
 " S I A S M to the side of sacred Horror, re-  
 " ligious *Antipathy*, and mutual *Discord*  
 " between Worshipers?"

THUS Provinces and Nations were di-  
 vided by the most *contrary* Rites and Cus-  
 toms which cou'd be devis'd, in order to  
 create the strongest *Aversion* possible be-  
 tween Creatures of a like Species. For  
 when all other Animositys are allay'd, and  
 Anger of the fiercest kind appeas'd, the  
*religicus Hatred*, we find, continues still,  
 as it began, without Provocation or vo-  
 luntary Offence. The presum'd *Misbe-*  
*liever* and *Blasphemer*, as one rejected and  
 abhor'd of God, is thro' a pious Imita-  
 tion, abhor'd by the *adverse Worshiper*,  
 whose Enmity must naturally increase as his  
*religious Zeal* increases.

FROM hence the Opposition rose of  
 Temple against Temple, Profelyte against  
 Profelyte. The most zealous Worship of  
 one God, was best express'd (as they con-  
 ceiv'd) by the open defiance of another.  
 SIR-NAMES and Titles of DIVINITY  
 pass'd as *Watch-words*. He who had not  
 the SYMBOL, nor cou'd give the *Word*,  
 receiv'd the Knock.

*Down with him ! Kill him ! Merit ~~~  
Heaven thereby ;*

As our \* Poet has it, in his AMERICAN  
Tragedy.

NOR did † PHILOSOPHY, when introduc'd into *Religion*, extinguish, but rather inflame this *Zeal* : as we may shew perhaps in our following Chapter more particularly ; if we return again, as is likely, to this Subject. For this, we perceive, is of a kind apt enough to grow upon our hands. We shall here, therefore, observe only what is obvious to every Student in sacred Antiquitys, That from the contentious Learning and Sophistry of the antient Schools (when true Science, Philosophy, and Arts were already deep in their † Decline) *religious Problems* of a like contentious Form sprang up ; and certain *Doctrinal TESTS* were fram'd, by which *religious Partys* were ingag'd and listed against one another, with more Animosity than in any other Cause or Quarrel had been ever known. Thus *religious Massacres* began, and were carry'd on ; Temples were demolish'd ; holy Utensils

\* Dryden, Indian Emperor, *Act v. Scene 2.*

† *Infra*, pag. 81.

† VOL. I. pag. 221, 222, & 350. in the Notes. And *Infra*, pag. 79, 80, 1, 2, &c.

Misc. 2. sils destroy'd ; the sacred Pomp trodden  
under-foot, insulted ; and the Insulters in  
their turn expos'd to the same Treatment,  
in their Persons as well as in their Wor-  
ship. Thus *Madness* and *Confusion* were  
brought upon the World, like that *C H A o s*,  
which the *Poet* miraculously describes in  
the mouth of his mad *Hero* : When even  
in Celestial Places, Disorder and Blind-  
ness reign'd :— “ No Dawn of Light ;

— \* “ *No Glimpse or starry Spark,*  
“ *But Gods met Gods, and jostled in the*  
“ *Dark.*

\* *OEDIPUS* of *Dryden* and *Lee*.

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## C H A P. II.

*Judgment of Divines and grave Authors concerning Enthusiasm.—Reflections upon Scepticism.—A Sceptick-Christian.—Judgment of the Inspir'd concerning their own Inspirations.—Knowldg and Belief.—History of Religion resum'd.—ZEAL Offensive and Defensive.—A Church in Danger.—Persecution.—Policy of the Church of ROME.*

WHAT I had to remark of my own concerning ENTHUSIASM, I have thus dispatch'd : What Others have remark'd on the same Subject, I may, as an *Apologist* to another Author, be allow'd to cite; especially if I take notice only of what has been dropt very naturally by some of our most approv'd Authors, and ablest *Divines*.

IT has been thought an odd kind of Temerity, in our Author, to assert, \* “ That even A THEISM it-self was not whol-

\* *Viz.* In his Letter concerning Enthusiasm, VOL. I.  
“ ly

Misc. 2. " ly exempt from *Enthusiasm*; That there  
 ~~ " have been in reality *Enthusiastical A-*  
 " theists; and That even the Spirit of  
 " *Martyrdom* cou'd, upon occasion, exert  
 " it-self as well in *this Cause*, as in any  
 " *other.*" Now, besides what has been  
 intimated in the preceding Chapter, and  
 what in fact may be demonstrated from the  
 Examples of VANINUS and other Mar-  
 tyrs of a like Principle, we may hear an  
 \* excellent and learned *Divine*, of highest  
 Authority at home, and Fame abroad; who  
 after having describ'd an *Enthusiastical Atheist* and one *atheistically inspir'd*, says  
 of this very sort of Men, " That they  
 " are *Fanaticks* too; however that word  
 " seem to have a more peculiar respect to  
 " *something of a DEITY*: All Atheists  
 " being that *blind Goddess-NATURE's*  
 " *Fanaticks.*"

AND again: " All Atheists (says he)  
 " are possess'd with a certain kind of  
 " Madness, that may be call'd † *Pneuma-*  
 " *tophobia*, that makes them have an irra-  
 " tional

\* Dr. CUDWORTH's Intellectual System, pag. 134.

† The good Doctor makes use, here, of a Stroke of Raillery against the over-frighted *anti-superstitious* Gentlemen, with whom our Author reasons at large in his second Treatise (*viz.* VOL. I. pag. 85, 86, &c. and 88, 89, &c.) 'Tis indeed the Nature of *Fear*, as of all other Passions, when excessive, to defeat its own End, and prevent us in the execution of what we naturally propofe to our-selves as our Advantage.

" tional but desperate Abhorrence from Spi-Ch. 2.  
 " rits or incorporeal Substances ; they be-~~~~~  
 " ing acted also, at the same time, with  
 " an *Hylomania*, whereby they madly dote  
 " upon *Matter*, and devoutly worship it,  
 " as the only N U M E N."

WHAT the Power of EXTASY is, whether thro' *Melancholy*, *Wine*, *Love*, or other natural Causes, another learned \* Divine of our Church, in a Discourse upon Enthusiasm, sets forth : bringing an Example from ARISTOTLE, " of a Syracusean Poet, who never verifly'd so well, as when he was in his *distracted Fits.*" But as to Poets in general, compar'd with the

vantage. SUPERSTITION it-self is but a certain kind of Fear, which possessing us strongly with the apprehended Wrath or Displeasure of *Divine Powers*, hinders us from judging what those *Powers* are in themselves, or what Conduct of ours may, with best reason, be thought suitable to such highly rational and superior Natures. Now if from the Experience of many gross Delusions of a superstitious kind, the Course of this Fear begins to turn ; 'tis natural for it to run, with equal violence, a contrary way. The extreme Paffion for religious Objects passes into an Aversion. And a certain Horror and Dread of *Imposture* causes as great a Disturbance as even *Imposture it-self* had done before. In such a Situation as this, the Mind may easily be blinded ; as well in one respect, as in the other. 'Tis plain, both these Disorders carry something with them which discover us to be in some manner beside our Reason, and out of the right use of Judgment and Understanding. For how can we be said to *intrust* or *use* our Reason, if in any case we fear to be convinc'd ? How are we Masters of our-selves, when we have acquir'd the Habit of bringing Horror, Aversion, Favour, Fondness, or any other Temper than that of mere *Indifference* and *Impartiality*, into the Judgment of Opinions, and Search of Truth ?

\* Dr. MORE, §. 11, 19, 20, and so on.

Misc. 2. *religious Enthusiasts*, he says : There is  
 ~~~~~ this Difference ; " That a Poet is an En-  
     thusiast in jest : and an Enthusiast is a  
     Poet in good earnest."

" 'Tis a strong Temptation \* (says the  
 " Doctor) with a *Melancholist*, when he  
 " feels a Storm of *Devotion* and *Zeal* come  
 " upon him *like a mighty Wind* ; his Heart  
 " being full of Affection, his Head preg-  
 " nant with clear and sensible Represen-  
 " tations, and his Mouth flowing and stream-  
 " ing with fit and powerful Expressions,  
 " such as would astonish an ordinary † Au-  
 " ditory ; 'tis, I say, a shreud Tempta-  
 " tion to him, to think it the very *Spirit*  
 " *of God* that then moves supernaturally  
 " in him ; whenas all that Excess of *Zeal*  
 " and *Affection*, and *Fluency* of *Words*,  
 " is most palpably to be resolv'd into the  
 " power of *Melancholy*, which is a kind of  
 " *natural Inebriation.*"

T H E learned Doctor, with much pains  
 afterwards, and by help of the Peripatetick

\* §. 16.

† It appears from hence, that in the Notion which this learned Divine gives us of ENTHUSIASM, he comprehends the *social* or *popular* Genius of the Passion ; agreeably with what our Author in his Letter concerning *Enthusiasm* (p. 15, 16, 44, 45.) has said of the Influence and Power of the *Assembly* and *Auditory* it-self, and of the communicative Force and rapid Progress of this extatick Fervor, once kindled, and set in action.

Philo-

Philosophy, explains this *Enthusiastick Inebriation*, and shews in particular \*, " How the Vapours and Fumes of Melancholy partake of the nature of Wine."

ONE might conjecture from hence, that the malicious Opposers of early Christianity were not unvers'd in this Philosophy; when they sophistically objected against the apparent Force of the *Divine Spirit* speaking in divers Languages, and attributed it " To the Power of new Wine."

BUT our devout and zealous Doctor seems to go yet further. For besides what he says of the † *Enthusiastick Power of Fancy* in Atheists, he calls *Melancholy* \*\* *a pertinacious and religious Complexion*; and asserts, " That there is not any true spiritual Grace from God, but this mere natural Constitution, according to the several Tempers and Workings of it, will not only resemble, but sometimes seem to outstrip." And after speaking of †† *Prophetical ENTHUSIASM*, and establishing (as our Author ‡‡ does) a *Legitimate* and a *Bastard*-sort, he asserts and justifies the (a) *Devotional ENTHUSIASM* (as he calls

\* §. 20, 21, 23, 26.

† Acts ii. 13.

‡ §. 1.

\*\* §. 15.

†† §. 30, & 57.

‡‡ VOL. I. p. 53.

(a) §. 63.

Misc. 2.it) of *holy and sincere Souls*, and ascribes  
 ~~~~~ this also to MELANCHOLY.

HE allows, “ That the Soul may sink  
 “ so far into *Phantasms*, as not to recover  
 “ the use of her free Faculty; and that  
 “ this enormous Strength of *Imagination*  
 “ does not only beget the Belief of mad  
 “ internal Apprehensions, but is able to af-  
 “ sure us of the Presence of *external Ob-*  
 “ *jects which are not.*” He adds, “ That  
 “ what *Custom* and *Education* do by de-  
 “ grees, distemper’d FANCY may do in a  
 “ shorter time.” And speaking \* of EX-  
 TASY and the Power of MELANCHOLY  
 in *Extatrick Fancys*, he says, “ That what  
 “ the *Imagination* then puts forth, of her-  
 “ self, is as *clear* as broad day; and the  
 “ Perception of the Soul at least as *strong*  
 “ and *vigorous*, as at any time in beholding  
 “ things *awake.*”

FROM whence the Doctor infers, “ That  
 “ the Strength of *Perception* is no sure  
 “ Ground of Truth.”

HAD any other than a reverend Father  
 of our Church express’d himself in this  
 manner, he must have been contented per-  
 haps to bear a sufficient Charge of *Scep-*  
*ticism.*

\* §. 28.

"TWAS good fortune in my Lord BACON'S Case, that he shou'd have escap'd being call'd an ATHEIST, or a SCEPTICK, when speaking in a solemn manner of the *religious Passion*, the Ground of SUPERSTITION, or ENTHUSIASM, (which he also terms \* *a Panick*) he derives it from an Imperfection in the Creation, Make, or natural Constitution of Man. How far the Author of the † Letter differs from this Author in his Opinion both of the End and Foundation of this Passion, may appear from what has been said above. And, in general, from what we read in the other succeeding Treatises

\* *NATURA RERUM* omnibus viventibus indidit metum & formidinem, vitæ atque essentiæ suæ conservatricem, ac mala ingruentia vitantem & repellentem. Veruntamen eadem Natura modum tenere nescia est, sed timoribus salutariibus semper vanos & inanes admisit: adeò ut omnia (si intus conspici darentur) Panicis Terroribus plenissima sint, præsertim humana; & maximè omnium apud vulgum, qui superstitione (quæ verè nihil aliud quam Panicus Terror est) in immensum laborat & agitatur; præcipue temporibus duris, & trepidis, & adversis. Franciscus Bacon de Augment. Scient. lib. ii. c. 13.

The Author of the Letter, I dare say, wou'd have expected no quarter from his Criticks, had he express'd himself as this celebrated Author here quoted; who, by his *Natura Rerum*, can mean nothing less than the *Universal Dispensing Nature*, erring blindly in the very first Design, Contrivance, or original Frame of Things; according to the Opinion of EPICURUS himself, whom this Author, immediately after, cites with Praise.

† *Viz.* The Letter concerning ENTHUSIASM, above, VOL. I.

Misc. 2. of our Author, we may venture to say of him with Assurance, " That he is as little a SCEPTICK (according to the vulgar Sense of that word) as he is *Epicurean, or Atheist.*" This may be prov'd sufficiently from his *Philosophy*: And for any thing higher, 'tis what he no-where presumes to treat; having forborn in particular to mention any Holy Mystery of our Religion, or Sacred Article of our Belief.

As for what relates to \* *Revelation* in general, if I mistake not our Author's meaning, he professes *to believe*, as far as is possible for any one who himself had never experienc'd any *Divine Communication*, whether by *Dream, Vision, Apparition*, or other *supernatural Operation*; nor was ever present as Eye-witness of any *Sign, Prodigy, or Miracle* whatsoever. Many of these, † he observes, are at this day pretendedly exhibited in the World, with an Endeavour of giving them the perfect Air and exact Resemblance of those recorded in *Holy Writ*. He speaks indeed with Contempt of the Mockery of modern Miracles and Inspiration. And as to all Pretences to things of this kind in our

\* *Infra*, pag. 315.

† VOL. I. pag. 44, 45, &c. And VOL. II. pag. 322, 323, &c.

present Age; he seems inclin'd to look Ch. 2. upon 'em as no better than mere *Imposture* or *Delusion*. But for what is recorded of Ages heretofore, he seems to resign his Judgment, with intire Condescension, to his Superiors. He pretends not to frame any *certain* or *positive* Opinion of his own, notwithstanding his best Searches into Antiquity, and the Nature of *religious Record* and *Tradition*: but on all occasions submits most willingly, and with full Confidence and Trust, to the \* Opinions by Law establish'd. And if this be not sufficient to free him from the Reproach of SCEPTICISM, he must, for ought I see, be content to undergo it.

To say truth, I have often wonder'd to find such a Disturbance rais'd about the simple name of † SCEPTICK. 'Tis certain that, in its original and plain signification, the word imports no more than barely, " That State or Frame of Mind " in which every one remains, on every " Subject of which he is *not certain*." He who is *certain*, or presumes to say *he knows*, is in that particular, whether he be mistaken or in the right, a DOGMATIST. Between these two States or Situations of

\* VOL. I. pag. 360, 1, 2, &c. And *Infra*, pag. 103, 231, 315, 316.

† VOL. II. pag. 205, 206, & 323, &c. And *Infra*, pag. 317, 318, &c.

Misc. 2. Mind, there can be no medium. For he who says, “*That he believes for certain,*” or is assur’d of what he believes; either speaks ridiculously, or says in effect, “*That he believes strongly, but is not sure.*” So that whoever is not conscious of Revelation, nor has certain Knowledg of any Miracle or Sign, can be no more than S C E P T I C K in the Case: And the best Christian in the World, who being destitute of the means of *Certainty*, depends only on History and Tradition for his Belief in these Particulars, is at best but a *Sceptick-Christian*. He has no more than a nicely critical \* *Historical Faith*, subject to various Speculations, and a thousand different *Criticisms* of Languages and Literature.

THIS he will naturally find to be the Case, if he attempts to search into *Originals*, in order to be *his own Judg*, and proceed on the bottom of *his own Discernment*, and Understanding. If, on the other hand, he is *no Critick*, nor competently learned in these *ORIGINALS*; 'tis plain he can have no *original Judgment* of his own; but must rely still on the *Opinion* of those who have opportunity to examine such matters, and whom he takes to be the unbias'd and disinterested Judges

\* VOL. I. pag. 146, 147. And *Infra*, pag. 316, 317, 320, &c.

of these *religious Narratives*. His Faith Ch. 2. is not in antient *Facts* or *Persons*, nor in the antient *Writ*, or Primitive *Recorders*; nor in the successive Collators or *Conserverors* of these Records (for of these he is unable to take cognizance:) But his Confidence and Trust must be in those *modern Men*, or *Society's of Men*, to whom the Publick, or He himself, ascribes the Right to judg of these *Records*, and commits the Determination of *sacred Writ* and *genuine Story*.

LET the Person seem ever so positive or dogmatical in these high Points of Learning; he is yet in reality no *Dogmatist*, nor can any way free himself from a certain kind of *SCEPTICISM*. He must know himself still capable of *Doubting*: Or if, for fear of it, he strives to banish every opposite Thought, and resolves not so much as to deliberate on the Case; this still will not acquit him. So far are we from being able to *be sure* when we have a mind; that indeed we can never be thorowly *sure*, but then only when we can't help it, and find of necessity we must be so, whether we will or not. Even the highest *implicit Faith* is in reality no more than a kind of *passive SCEPTICISM*; "A Resolution to examine, re-collect, consider, or hear, as little as possible to the prejudice of that *Belief*,

Misc. 2. " which having once espous'd we are ever  
 ~~ " afterwards afraid to lose."

IF I might be allow'd to imitate our *Author*, in daring to touch now and then upon the *Characters* of our Divine *Worthys*, I shou'd, upon this Subject of *BELIEF*, observe how fair and generous the great *Christian Convert*, and *learned APOSTLE*, has shewn himself in his Sacred Writings. Notwithstanding he had himself an *original Testimony* and *Revelation* from Heaven, on which he grounded his Conversion; notwithstanding he had in his own Person the Experience of outward *Miracles* and inward *Communications*; he condescended still, on many occasions, to speak *sceptically*, and with some Hesitation and Reserve, as to the *Certainty* of these Divine Exhibitions. In his account of some Transactions of this kind, himself being the Witness, and speaking (as we may presume) of his own Person, and proper Vision, \* he says only that " *He knew a Man* : whether in the Body or out of it, " *he cannot tell*. But such a one caught up " to the third Heaven, he knew formerly " (he says) *above fourteen years before his then Writing.*" And when in another Capacity the same inspir'd Writer, giving Precepts to his Disciples, distinguishes

\* 2 Cor. xii. ver. 2, 3.

what \* he writes by *Divine Commission* from Ch. 2. what he delivers as his own *Judgment* and ~~ *private Opinion*, he condescends nevertheless to speak as one no way positive, or Master of any absolute *Criterion* in the Case. And in several subsequent † Passages, he expresses himself as under some kind of Doubt how to judg or determine certainly, “ Whether he writes by Inspiration or otherwise.” He only “ thinks ” he has the Spirit.” He “ is not sure,” nor wou’d have us to depend on him as *positive* or *certain* ia a matter of so nice Discernment.

THE holy Founders and inspir’d Authors of our Religion requir’d not, it seems, so strict an Assent, or such *implicit Faith* in behalf of their *original Writings* and *Revelations*, as later un-inspir’d Doctors, without the help of Divine Testimony, or any Miracle on their side, have requir’d in behalf of their own *Comments* and *Interpretations*. The earliest and worst of *Hereticks*, ’tis said, were those call’d *Gnosticks*, who took their name from an audacious Pretence to *certain Knowledge* and *Comprehension* of the greatest *Mysterys* of Faith. If the most dangerous State of Opinion was this *dogmatical* and presump-

\* 1 Cor. vii. 10, 12.

† 1 Cor. vii. 40.

Misc. 2. tuous sort ; the safest, in all likelihood,  
must be the *sceptical* and modest.

THERE is nothing more evident than that our *Holy Religion*, in its original Constitution, was set so far apart from all *Philosophy* or refin'd *Speculation*, that it seem'd in a manner diametrically oppos'd to it. A Man might have been not only a *Sceptick* in all the controverted Points of the Academys, or Schools of Learning, but even a perfect *Stranger* to all of this kind ; and yet compleat in his Religion, Faith, and Worship.

AMONG the polite Heathens of the ancient World, these different Provinces of *Religion* and *Philosophy* were upheld, we know, without the least interfering with each other. If in some barbarous Nations the *Philosopher* and *Priest* were join'd in one, 'tis observable that the Mysterys, whatever they were, which sprang from this extraordinary Conjunction, were kept secret and undivulg'd. 'Twas Satisfaction enough to the *Priest-Philosopher*, if the initiated Party preserv'd his Respect and Veneration for the Tradition and Worship of the Temple, by complying in every respect with the requisite Performances and Rites of Worship. No Account was afterwards taken of the *Philosophick Faith* of the *Proselyte*, or *Worshipper*. His Opinions

nions were left to himself, and he might Ch. 2.  
philosophize according to what foreign School or Sect he fancy'd. Even amongst the Jews themselves, the SADDUCEE (*a Materialist, and Denyer of the Soul's Immortality*) was as well admitted as the PHARISEE; who from the Schools of PYTHAGORAS, PLATO, or other latter Philosophers of GREECE, had learnt to reason upon *immaterial Substances, and the natural Immortality of Souls.*

'T IS no astonishing Reflection to observe how fast the World declin'd in \* Wit and Sense, in Manhood, Reason, Science, and in every Art, when once the ROMAN Empire had prevail'd, and spread an universal Tyranny and Oppression over Mankind. Even the *Romans* themselves, after the early Sweets of one peaceful and long Reign, began to groan under that Yoke, of which they had been themselves the Imposers. How much more must other Nations, and mighty Citys, at a far distance, have abhor'd this Tyranny, and detested their common Servitude under a People, who were themselves no better than mere Slaves?

IT may be look'd upon, no doubt, as providential, that at this time, and in

\* VOL. I. pag. 220, &c. And in the preceding Chapter, pag. 61.

these

Misc. 2. these Circumstances of the World, there  
 ~~ shou'd arise so high an expectation of *a divine Deliverer*; and that from the Eastern Parts and Confines of J U D E A the Opinion shou'd spread it-self of such *a Deliverer to come*, with Strength from Heaven sufficient to break that Empire, which no earthly Power remaining cou'd be thought sufficient to encounter. Nothing cou'd have better dispos'd the generality of Mankind, to receive the *Evangelical Advice*; whilst they mistook *the News*, as many of the first Christians plainly did, and understood the Promises of a M E s s I A S in this temporal Sense, with respect to his *second Coming*, and *sudden Reign here upon Earth*.

\* S U P E R S T I T I O N, in the mean while, cou'd not but naturally prevail, as *Misery* and *Ignorance* increas'd. The R O M A N Emperors, as they grew more barbarous, grew so much the more superstitious. The *Lands* and *Revenues*, as well as the *Numbers* of the Heathen Priests grew daily. And when the season came, that by means of a Convert-Emperor, the Heathen † *Church-Lands*, with an Increase of Power,

\* VOL. I. pag. 133. And below, pag. 90.

† How rich and vast these were, especially in the latter times of that Empire, may be judg'd from what belong'd to the

Power, became transfer'd to the Christian Ch. 2.  
 Clergy, 'twas no wonder if by such Riches w  
 and Authority they were in no small mea-  
 sure influenc'd and corrupted; as may be  
 gather'd even from the Accounts given us  
 of these matters by themselves.

WHEN, together with this, the *Schools*  
 of the antient † Philosophers, which had  
 been long in their Decline, came now to  
 be dissolv'd, and their sophistick Teachers

the single Order of the *Vestals*, and what we read of the Re-  
 venues belonging to the Temples of the *Sun*, (as in the time  
 of the Moniter *HELIOGABALUS*) and of other Dona-  
 tions by other Emperors. But what may give us yet a  
 greater Idea of these Riches, is, That in the latter Heathen  
 Times, which grew more and more superstitious, the re-  
 straining Laws (or Statutes of *Mort-main*) by which Men  
 had formerly been with-held from giving away Estates by  
*Will*, or othervise, to *Religious Uses*, were repeal'd; and  
 the Heathen-Church left, in this manner, as a bottomless  
 Gulph and devouring Receptacle of Land and Treasure.  
*Senatus-consulto, & Constitutionibus Principum, Hæredes insti-*  
*tuere concessum est Apollinem Didymæum, Dianam Ephesiam,*  
*Matrem Dcorum, &c. Ulpianus post Cod. Theodos. pag. 92.*  
*apud Marsh.*

This answers not amiss to the modern Practice and Ex-  
 pression of *Making our Soul our Heir*: Giving to *God* what  
 has been taken sometimes with freedom enough from *Man*;  
 and conveying Estates in such a manner in this World, as to  
 make good Interest of them in another. The Reproach of  
 the antient *Satirist* is at present out of doors. 'Tis no affront  
 to Religion now-a-days to compute its Profits. And a Man  
 might well be accounted dull, who, in our present Age,  
 shou'd ask the Question, *Dicite, Pontifices, in sacro quid facit*  
*Aurum?* Perf. Sat. ii. ver. 69. See below, pag. 90, and  
 125. in the Notes, and 88. *ibid.*

† As above, pag. 61.

became

Misc. 2. became Ecclesiastical Instructors ; the unnatural Union of *Religion* and *Philosophy* was compleated, and the monstrous Product of this Match appear'd soon in the World. The odd exterior Shapes of Deitys, Temples, and holy Utensils, which by the \* EGYPTIAN Sects had been formerly set in battel against each other, were now metamorphos'd into *philosophical Forms* and *Phantoms* ; and, like Flags and Banners, display'd in hostile manner, and borne offensively, by one Party against another. In former times those barbarous Nations above mention'd were the sole Warriors in these religious Causes ; but now the whole World became engag'd : when instead of *Storks* and *Crocodiles*, other Ensigns were erected ; when *sophistical Chimeras*, *crabbed Notions*, *bombaſtick Phrases*, *Solecisms*, *Absurditys*, and a thousand Monsters of a *ſcholaſtick Brood*, were fet on foot, and made the Subject of vulgar Animosity and Dispute.

HERE first began that Spirit of *Bigotry*, which broke out in a more raging manner than had been ever known before, and was less capable of *Temper* or *Moderation* than any Species, Form, or Mixture of Religion in the antient World.

\* *Supra*, pag. 42, 46, 47, 60. And VOL. I. pag. 350. in the Notes.

Mysterys, which were heretofore treated Ch. 2. with profound respect, and lay unexpos'd to vulgar Eyes, became publick and prostitute; being enforc'd with Terrors, and urg'd with Compulsion and Violence, on the unfitted Capacitys and Apprehensions of Mankind. The very *Jewish* Traditions, and *Cabalistic* Learning underwent this Fate. That which was naturally the Subject of profound Speculation and Inquiry, was made the necessary Subject of a strict and absolute Assent. The *allegorical, mythological* Account of Sacred Things, was wholly inverted: Liberty of Judg-  
ment and Exposition taken away: No Ground left for Inquiry, Search, or Meditation: No Refuge from the *dogmatical* Spirit let loose. Every Quarter was taken up; every Portion prepossess'd. All was reduc'd to \* *Article* and *Proposition*.

THUS a sort of *philosophical Enthusiasm* overspread the World. And **BIGOTRY** (a † Species of *Superstition* hardly known before) took place in Mens Affections, and arm'd 'em with a new Jealousy against each other. Barbarous

\* *Infra*, pag. 332, 3, 4. in the Notes. *Et supra*, p. 61.

† Let any one who considers distinctly the Meaning and Force of the word **BIGOTRY**, endeavour to render it in either of the antient Languages, and he will find how peculiar a Passion it implies; and how different from the mere Affection of *Enthusiasm* or *Superstition*.

Misc. 2. Terms and Idioms were every day intro-  
duc'd: Monstrous Definitions invented and  
impos'd: New Schemes of Faith erected  
from time to time; and Hostilitys, the  
fiercest imaginable, exercis'd on these oc-  
casions. So that the ENTHUSIASM or  
ZEAL, which was usually shewn by Man-  
kind in behalf of their particular Wor-  
ships, and which for the most part had  
been hitherto *defensive* only, grew now to  
be universally of the *offensive* kind.

IT MAY be expected of me perhaps, that being fallen thus from remote Anti-  
quity to later Periods, I shou'd speak on  
this occasion with more than ordinary Ex-  
actness and Regularity. It may be urg'd  
against me, that I talk here, as *at random*,  
and *without-book*: neglecting to produce  
my Authoritys, or continue my Quota-  
tions, according to the profess'd Style and  
Manner in which I began this present  
Chapter. But as there are many greater  
Privileges by way of Variation, Interrup-  
tion, and Digression, allow'd to us *Writers*  
of MISCELLANY; and especially to  
such as are *Commentators* upon other Au-  
thors; I shall be content to remain myster-  
ious in this respect, and explain my-self  
no further than by a noted *Story*; which  
seems to sute our Author's purpose, and the  
present Argument.

“T IS

"Tis observable from Holy Writ, that the antient EPHESIAN Worshipers, however zealous or enthusiastick they appear'd, had only a *defensive* kind of Zeal in behalf of their \* Temple ; whenever they thought in earnest, it was brought in danger. In the † Tumult which happen'd in that City near the time of the holy Apostle's Retreat, we have a remarkable instance of what our Author calls a religious *Panick*. As little *Bigots* as the People were, and as far from any *offensive* Zeal, yet when their establish'd Church came to be call'd in question, we see in what a manner their Zeal began to operate. ‡ " *All with one voice, about the space of two hours, cried out, saying,*

\* The Magnificence and Beauty of that Temple is well known to all who have form'd any Idea of the antient Grecian Arts and Workmanship. It seems to me to be remarkable in our learned and elegant Apostle, that tho' an Enemy to this mechanical Spirit of Religion in the EPHESIANS ; yet according to his known Character, he accommodates himself to their Humour, and the natural Turn of their ENTHUSIASM ; by writing to his Converts in a kind of *Archite&t-Style*, and almost with a perpetual Allusion to *Building*, and to that *Majesty, Order, and Beauty*, of which their Temple was a Master-piece. Ἐποικοδομεῖτες ἐπὶ τῷ θεμελίῳ ἡμῶν ἡ περιφητῶν, ὃν Θεοῦ ἀκεραυνίσθαι λέγει ἀντίθετος Χειρῶν. Ἔν δὲ τῷ οὐρανῷ ὁ ἀκοδοχήσας συνάρμολογεμένην ἀντίτενται ταῖς ἀγύιοις ἐν Κυρίῳ. Ἔν δὲ καὶ ὑμέσις συνακοδομεῖσθε εἰς κατοικητήν τῷ Θεῷ ἐν τωνύμωλι. — Eph. ch. ii. ver. 20, 21, 22. And so Ch. iii. ver. 17, 18, &c. And Ch. iv. ver. 16, 29.

† Act. Apost. chap. xix. ver. 23.

‡ Ibid. ver. 28, & 34.

“ Great

Misc. 2. "Great is DIANA of the Ephesians." At the same time this Assembly was so confus'd, that \* the greater part knew not wherefore they were come together; and consequently cou'd not understand why their Church was in any Danger. But the ENTHUSIASM was got up, and a PANICK Fear for the Church had struck the Multitude. It ran into a popular Rage or epidemical Phrenzy, and was communicated (as our † Author expresses it) "by Aspect, "or, as it were, by Contact, or Sym-pathy."

IT must be confess'd, that there was, besides these Motives, *a secret Spring* which forwarded this ENTHUSIASM. For certain Partys concern'd, Men of Craft, and strictly united in Interest, had been secretly call'd together, and told, "Gentlemen! "‡ (or Sirs!) Ye know that by this Mystery, or Craft, we have our Wealth. Ye see withal, and have heard, that not only here at EPHESUS, but almost thro'out all ASIA, this PAUL has persuaded and turn'd away many People, by telling them, *They are no real Gods who are figur'd, or wrought with hands:* so that

\* Act. Apost. chap. xix. ver. 32.

† Letter of Enthusiasm, VOL. I. pag. 15.

‡ Act. Apost. chap. xix. ver. 25, &c.

" not only this our *Craft* is in danger; Ch. 2.  
 " but also the *Temple* it-self."



NOTHING cou'd be more moderate and wise, nothing more agreeable to that magisterial Science or Policy, which our Author \* recommends, than the Behaviour of the *Town-Clerk* or *Recorder* of the City, as he is represented on this occasion, in Holy Writ. I must confess indeed, he went pretty far in the use of this moderating Art. He ventur'd to assure the People, " That every one acquiesc'd in their antient Worship of the great Goddefs, and in their Tradition of the Image, which fell down from JUPITER: That these were Facts undeni-ble: and That the new Sect neither meant the pulling down of their Church, nor so much as offer'd to blaspheme or speak amiss of their Goddefs."

THIS, no doubt, was stretching the point sufficiently; as may be understood by the Event, in after time. One might perhaps have suspected this Recorder to have been himself *a Dissenter*, or at least *an Occasional Conformist*, who cou'd answer so roundly for the new Sect, and warrant the *Church in Being* secure of Damage, and out of all Danger for the future. Mean

\* Letter of Enthusiasm, VOL. I. pag. 16, &c.

Misc. 2. while the Tumult was appeas'd : No  
 ~~~ harm befel the Temple for that time.  
 The new Sect acquiesc'd in what had been  
 spoken on their behalf. They allow'd the  
 Apology of the Recorder. Accordingly  
 the Zeal of the Heathen Church, which  
 was only *defensive*, gave way : And the  
 new Religionists were prosecuted no fur-  
 ther.

HITHERTO, it seems, the Face of  
 PERSECUTION had not openly shewn  
 it-self in the wide World. 'Twas suffi-  
 cient Security for every Man, that he  
 gave no disturbance to what was pub-  
 licly establish'd. But when *offensive*  
*Zeal* came to be discover'd in one Party,  
 the rest became in a manner necessitated  
 to be Aggressors in their turn. They  
 who observ'd, or had once experienc'd this  
 intolerating Spirit, cou'd no longer tol-  
 erate on their part \*. And they who had  
 once

\* Thus the Controversy stood before the Time of the Emperor JULIAN, when Blood had been so freely drawn, and Crueltys so frequently exchang'd not only between Christian and Heathen, but between Christian and Christian ; after the most barbarous manner. What the Zeal was of many early Christians against the Idolatry of the old Heathen Church (at that time the establish'd one) may be comprehended by any Person who is ever so slenderly vers'd in the History of those Times. Nor can it be said indeed of us Moderns, that in the quality of *good Christians* (as that Character is generally understood) we are found either backward or scrupulous in as-  
 signing to Perdition such Wretches as we pronounce guilty of  
*Idolatry*.

once exerted it over others, cou'd expect Ch. 2. no better Quarter for themselves. So that ~~the~~ nothing less than *mutual Extirpation* became the Aim, and almost open Profession of each religious Society.

## IN

*Idolatry.* The name *Idolater* is sufficient Excuse for almost any kind of Insult against the Person, and much more against the Worship of such a Mis-Believer. The very word *Christian* is in common Language us'd for *Man*, in opposition to *Brute-Beast*, without leaving so much as a middle place for the poor *Heathen* or *Pagan*: who, as the greater Beast of the two, is naturally doom'd to Massacre, and his Gods and Temples to Fracture and Demolishment. Nor are we masters of this Passion, even in our best humour. The *French Poets*, we see, can with great Success, and general Applause, exhibit this primitive Zeal even on the publick Stage: *POLY-EUCTE*, Act II. Sc. 6.

*Ne perdons plus de temps, le Sacrifice est prêt.  
Allons y du vray Dieu soutenir l'intérêt,  
Allons fouler aux piés ce Foudre ridicule  
Dont arme un bois pourri ce Peuple trop credule ;  
Allons en éclairer l'aveuglement fatal,  
Allons briser ces Dieux de Pierre & de Metal :  
Abandonnons nos jours à cette ardeur céleste,  
Faisons triompher Dieu ; qu'il dispose du reste.*

I shou'd scarce have mention'd this, but that it came into my mind how ill a Construction some People have endeavour'd to make of what our Author, stating the Case of Heathen and Christian Persecution, in his *Letter of Enthusiasm*, has said concerning the Emperor JULIAN. It was no more indeed than had been said of that virtuous and gallant Emperor by his greatest Enemys; even by those who, to the shame of Christianity, boasted of his having been most insolently affronted on all occasions, and even treacherously assassinated by one of his Christian Soldiers. As for such Authors as these, shou'd I cite them in their proper invective Style and Saint-like Phrase, they wou'd make no very agreeable appearance, especially in *Miscellanies* of the kind we have here undertaken. But a Letter of that elegant and witty Emperor, may not be improperly plac'd amongst our Citations, as a Pattern of his

Misc. 2.

IN this extremity, it might well perhaps have been esteem'd the happiest Wish for Mankind, That one of these contending Partys of incompatible Religionists shou'd

Humour and Genius, as well as of his Principle and Sentiments, on this occasion. JULIAN's Epistles, Numb. 52.

JULIAN to the BOSTRENS.

" I should have thought, indeed, that the Galilæan Leaders  
 " wou'd have esteem'd themselves more indebted to me, than  
 " to him who preceded me in the Administration of the Em-  
 " pire. For in his time, many of them suffer'd Exile, Per-  
 "secution, and Imprisonment. Multitudes of those whom  
 " in their Religion they term Hereticks, were put to the  
 " sword. Insomuch that in Samosata, Cyzicum, Paphla-  
 " gonia, Bithynia, Galatia, and many other Countrys, whole  
 " Towns were level'd with the Earth. The just Reverse of  
 " this has been observ'd in my time. The Exiles have been  
 " recall'd; and the Proscrib'd restor'd to the lawful Possession  
 " of their Estates. But to that height of Fury and Distrac-  
 "tion are this People arriv'd, that being no longer allow'd  
 " the Privilege to tyrannize over one another, or persecute  
 " either their own Sectarys, or the Religious of the lawful  
 " Church, they fuell with rage, and leave no stone un-  
 " turn'd, no opportunity unemploy'd, of raisng Tumult and  
 " Sedition. So little regard have they to true Piety; so little  
 " Obedience to our Laws and Constitutions; however hu-  
 " mane and tolerating. For still do we determine and sted-  
 " dily resolve, never to suffer one of them to be drawn in-  
 " voluntarily to our Altars. \* \* \* As for the mere People,  
 " indeed, they appear driven to these Riots and Seditions by  
 " those amongst them whom they call CLERICKS: who  
 " are now enrag'd to find themselves restrain'd in the use of  
 " their former Power and intemperate Rule. \* \* \* They can  
 " no longer at the Magistrate or Civil Judg, nor assume Au-  
 " thority to make Peoples Wills, supplant Relations, pos-  
 " sess themselves of other Mens Patrimonys, and by specious  
 " Pretences transfer all into their own possession. \* \* \* For  
 " this reason I have thought fit, by this Publick EDICT,  
 " to forewarn the People of this sort, that they raise no  
 " more

shou'd at last prevail over the rest; so Ch. 2.  
as by an universal and absolute Power to ~~the~~  
\* determine Orthodoxy, and make that  
Opinion effectually *Catholick*, which in  
their particular Judgment had the best right  
to that Denomination. And thus by force  
of Massacre and Desolation, *Peace in Wor-*

" more Commotions, nor gather in a riotous manner about  
" their seditious C L E R I C K S, in defiance of the Magistrate,  
" who has been insulted and in danger of being ston'd by  
" these incited Rabbles. In their Congregations they may, notwithstanding,  
assemble as they please, and croud about their  
Leaders, performing Worship, receiving Doctrine, and pray-  
ing, according as they are by them taught and conducted:  
But if with any Tendency to Sedition; let them beware  
how they hearken, or give assent; and remember, 'tis at  
their peril, if by these means they are secretly wrought up  
to Mutiny and Insurrection. \*\*\* Live, therefore, in  
Peace and Quietness! neither spitefully opposing, or inju-  
riously treating one another. You misguided People of the  
new way, Beware, on your side! And you of the antient  
and establish'd Church, injure not your Neighbours and Fel-  
low-Citizens, who are enthusiastically led away, in Ignor-  
ance and Mistake, rather than with Design or Malice!  
'Tis by DISCOURSE and REASON, not by Blows,  
Insults, or Violence, that Men are to be inform'd of Truth,  
and convinc'd of Error. Again therefore and again I en-  
join and charge the zealous Followers of the true Religion, no  
way to injure, molest, or affront the Galilean People."

Thus the generous and mild Emperor; whom we may indeed call *Heathen*, but not so justly *Apostate*: since being, at different times of his Youth, transfer'd to different Schools or Universitys, and bred under Tutors of each Religion, as well *Heathen* as *Christian*; he happen'd, when of full age, to make his choice (tho very unfortunately) in the former kind, and adher'd to the antient Religion of his Country and Fore-fathers. See the same Emperor's Letters to A R T A B I U S, Numb. 7. and to H E C E B O L U S, Numb. 43. and to the People of *Alexandria*, Numb. 10. See VOL. I. pag. 25.

\* *Infra*, pag. 343.

Miscellany, and Civil Unity by help of the *Spirituall*, might be presum'd in a fair way of being restor'd to Mankind.

I SHALL conclude with observing how ably the ROMAN-CHRISTIAN, and once CATHOLICK Church, by the assistance of their converted \* Emperors, proceeded in the Establishment of their growing Hierarchy. They consider'd wisely the various *Superstitions* and *Enthusiasms* of Mankind; and prov'd the different Kinds and Force of each. All these seeming Contrarietys of human Passion they knew how to comprehend in their political Model and subseruent System of Divinity. They knew how to make advantage both from the high Speculations of *Philosophy*, and the grossest Ideas of vulgar *Ignorance*. They saw there was nothing more different than that ENTHUSIASM which ran upon *Spiritualls*, according to the † simpler Views of the divine Existence, and that which ran upon ‡ external Proportions, Magnificence of Structures, Ceremonys, Processions, Quires, and those other Harmonys which captivate the Eye and Ear. On this account they even added to this latter kind, and display'd Religion in a yet more gorgeous Habit of Temples, Statues, Paint-

\* VOL. I. pag. 133. *Supra*, 78, 79.

† VOL. II. pag. 270, 271.

‡ *Supra*, pag. 41.

ings,

ings, Vestments, Copes, Miters, Purple, Ch. 2. and the Cathedral Pomp. With these ~~~~~ Arms they cou'd subdue the victorious Goths, and secure themselves an ATTILA \*, when their CÆSARS fail'd them.

THE truth is, 'tis but a vulgar Species of ENTHUSIASM, which is mov'd chiefly by *Sherw* and *Ceremony*, and wrought upon by Chalices and Candles, Robes, and figur'd Dances. Yet this, we may believe, was lookt upon as no slight Ingredient of *Devotion* in those Days; since, at this hour, the Manner is found to be of considerable Efficacy with some of the Devout amongst our-selves, who pass the least for *superstitious*, and are reckon'd in the Number of the polite World. This the wise Hierarchy duly preponderating; but being satisfy'd withal that there were other Tempers and Hearts which cou'd not so easily be captivated by this *exterior Allurement*, they assign'd another Part of Religion to Proselytes of another *Character*

\* When this victorious Ravager was in full March to ROME, St. LEO (the then Pope) went out to meet him in solemn Pomp. The Goth was struck with the Appearance, obey'd the Priest, and retir'd instantly with his whole Army in a panick Fear; alledging that among the rest of the Pontifical Train, he had seen one of an extraordinary Form, who threaten'd him with Death, if he did not instantly retire. Of this important Encounter there are in St. PETER's Church, in the VATICAN, and elsewhere, at ROME, many fine Sculptures, Paintings, and Representations, deservingly made, in honour of the Miracle.

Misc. 2. and *Complexion*, who were allow'd to proceed on a quite different bottom; by the inward way of *Contemplation*, and *Divine Love*.

THEY are indeed so far from being jealous of mere ENTHUSIASM, or the extatick manner of Devotion, that they allow their *Mysticks* to write and preach in the most rapturous and seraphick Strains. They suffer them, in a manner, to supercede all external Worship, and triumph over outward Forms; till the refin'd Religionists proceed so far as either expressly or seemingly to dissuade the Practice of the vulgar and establish'd Ceremonial Dutys. And then, indeed \*, they check the suppos'd exorbitant ENTHUSIASM, which wou'd prove dangerous to their *Hierarchal State*.

IF modern *Visions*, *Prophecys*, and *Dreams*, *Charms*, *Miracles*, *Exorcisms*, and the rest of this kind, be comprehended in that which we call FANATICISM or SUPERSTITION; to this Spirit they allow a full Career; whilst to ingenuous Writers they afford the Liberty, on the other side, in a civil manner, to call in

\* Witness the Case of MOLINOS, and of the pious, worthy and ingenious *Abbé FENELON*, now Archbishop of Cambray,

question

question these spiritual Feats perform'd in Ch. 2. Monasterys, or up and down by their ~~worms~~ mendicant or *itinerant* Priests, and ghostly Missionarys.

THIS is that antient *Hierarchy*, which in respect of its first Foundation, its Policy, and the Consistency of its whole Frame and Constitution, cannot but appear in some respect august and venerable, even in such as we do not usually esteem weak Eyes. These are the spiritual Conquerors, who, like the first CÆSARS, from small Beginnings, establish'd the Foundations of an almost Universal Monarchy. No wonder if at this day the immediate View of this Hierarchal Residence, the City and *Court* of ROME, be found to have an extraordinary Effect on Foreigners of other latter Churches. No wonder if the amaz'd Surveyors are for the future so apt either to conceive the horridest Averision to all Priestly Government; or, on the contrary, to admire it, so far as even to wish a Coalescence or Re-union with this antient *Mother-Church*.

IN reality, the Exercise of Power, however arbitrary or despotick, seems less intolerable under such a spiritual Sovereignty, so extensive, antient, and of such a long Succession, than under the petty Tyrannys and mimical Politys of some new Pretenders.

Misc. 2.ders. The former may even \* persecute  
~~~ with a tolerable Grace: The latter, who  
wou'd willingly derive their Authority  
from the former, and graft on their *suc-  
cessive Right*, must necessarily make a very  
aukard Figure. And whilst they strive to  
give themselves the same Air of Indepen-  
dency on the Civil Magistrate; whilst they  
affect the same Authority in Government,  
the same Grandure, Magnificence, and  
Pomp in Worship, they raise the highest  
Ridicule, in the Eyes of those who have  
real Discernment, and can distinguish *Or-  
iginals* from *Copys*:

† *O Imitatores, servum pecus!*

\* *Infra*, pag. 110.

† Horat. Lib.i. Ep. 19. ver. 19.

## C H A P. III.

*Of the Force of Humour in Religion.*

—*Support of our Author's Argument in his Essay on the Freedom of Wit and Raillery.*—

*ZEAL discuss'd. Spiritual Surgeons: Executioners: Carvers.*

—*Original of human Sacrifice.*

—*Exhilaration of Religion.*—

*Various Aspects, from outward Causes.*

THE celebrated *Wits* of the MISCELLANARIAN Race, the *Essay-Writers*, *casual Discoursers*, *Reflection-Coiners*, *Meditation-Founders*, and others of the irregular kind of Writers, may plead it as their peculiar Advantage, “ That they follow the *Variety of NATURE.*” And in such a *Climate* as ours, their Plea, no doubt, may be very just. We *Islanders*, fam’d for other Mutabilitys, are particularly noted for the Variableness and Inconstancy of our Weather. And if our Taste in *Letters* be found answerable to this Temperature of our Climate; ’tis certain

Misc. 2. tain a Writer must, in our Account, be the  
more valuable in his kind, as he can agreeably surprize his Reader, by *sudden Changes*, and *Transports*, from one Extreme to another.

WERE it not for the known Prevalency of this Relish, and the apparent Deference paid to those Genius's who are said to *elevate* and *surprize*; the Author of these MISCELLANYS might, in all probability, be afraid to entertain his Reader with this multifarious, complex, and desultory kind of Reading. 'Tis certain, that if we consider the Beginning and Process of our present Work, we shall find sufficient Variation in it. From a profess'd Levity, we are laps'd into a sort of Gravity unsuitable to our manner of setting out. We have steer'd an adventurous Course, and seem newly come out of a stormy and rough Sea. 'Tis time indeed we shou'd enjoy a Calm, and instead of expanding our Sails before the swelling Gusts, it befits us to retire under the Lee-shore, and ply our Oars in a smooth Water.

'Tis the *Philosopher*, the *Orator*, or the *Poet*, whom we may compare to some First-Rate Vessel, which launches out into the wide Sea, and with a proud Motion insults the encountering Surges. We

ESSAY-WRITERS are of the *Small-Craft*, or Ch. 3.  
*Galley-kind*. We move chiefly by Starts  
and Bounds ; according as our Motion is  
by frequent Intervals renew'd. We have  
no great Adventure in view ; nor can tell  
certainly Whither we are bound. We un-  
dertake no mighty Voyage, by help of  
Stars or Compass ; but row from Creek  
to Creek, keep up a coasting Trade, and  
are fitted only for fair Weather and the  
Summer Season.

HAPPY therefore it is for *us* in parti-  
cular, that having finish'd our Course of  
ENTHUSIASM, and pursu'd our Author  
into his \* *second* Treatise, we are now, at  
last, oblig'd to turn towards pleasanter  
Reflections, and have such Subjects in  
view as must naturally reduce us to a more  
familiar Style. WIT and HUMOUR (the  
profes'd Subject of the Treatise now be-  
fore us) will hardly bear to be examin'd in  
ponderous Sentences and pois'd Discourse.  
We might now perhaps do best, to lay a-  
side the Gravity of strict Argument, and  
resume the way of *Chat* ; which, thro' A-  
version to a contrary *formal manner*, is ge-  
nerally relish'd with more than ordinary  
Satisfaction. For excess of *Phyfick*, we  
know, has often made Men hate the name  
of *wholesom*. And an abundance of forc'd

\* Viz. Essay on the Freedom of *Wit* and *Humour*, VOL. I.

Misc. 2. Instruction, and solemn Counsel, may have  
 ~~ made Men full as averse to any thing  
 deliver'd with an Air of high *Wisdom* and  
*Science*; especially if it be so *high* as to be  
 set above all human Art of *Reasoning*, and  
 even above *Reason* it-self, in the account of  
 its sublime Dispensers.

HOWEVER, since it may be objected  
 to us by certain *Formalists* of this sort,  
 " That we can prove nothing duly with-  
 out proving it *in form* :" we may for  
 once condescend to their Demand; state  
 our Case *formally*; and divide our Subject  
 into Parts, after the *precise* manner, and  
 according to just *Rule* and *Method*.

OUR purpose, therefore, being to defend  
 an Author, who has been charg'd as too  
 presumptuous for introducing the way of  
 WIT and HUMOUR into *religious* Sear-  
 ches; we shall endeavour to make appear:

*1st*, THAT WIT and HUMOUR are  
 corroborative of *Religion*, and promotive  
 of true *Faith*.

*2ly*, THAT they are us'd as proper  
 Means of this kind by the holy Founders  
 of Religion.

*3ly*, THAT notwithstanding the dark  
 Complexion and sour Humour of some re-  
 ligious

ligious Teachers, we may be justly said to Ch. 3.  
have in the main, A witty and good-humour'd Religion.

AMONG the earliest Acquaintance of my Youth, I remember, in particular, a Club of three or four merry Gentlemen, who had long kept Company with one another, and were seldom separate in any Party of Pleasure or Diversion. They happen'd once to be upon a travelling Adventure, and came to a Country, where they were told for certain, they should find the worst Entertainment, as well as the worst Roads imaginable. One of the Gentlemen, who seem'd the least concern'd for this Disaster, said slightly and without any seeming Design, " That the best Expedient for them in this Extremity wou'd be to keep themselves in high Humour, and endeavour to commend every thing which the Place afforded." The other Gentlemen immediately took the hint ; but, as it happen'd, kept silence, pass'd the Subject over, and took no further notice of what had been propos'd.

BEING enter'd into the dismal Country, in which they proceeded without the least Complaint ; 'twas remarkable, that if by great chance they came to any tolerable Bit of Road, or any ordinary Prospect,

Misc. 2. pect, they fail'd not to say something or  
other *in its praise*, and wou'd light often on  
such pleasant *Fancys* and *Representations*, as  
made the Objects in reality agreeable.

WHEN the greatest part of the Day  
was thus spent, and our Gentlemen ar-  
riv'd where they intended to take their  
Quarters, the first of 'em who made trial  
of the Fare, or tasted either *Glass* or *Dish*,  
recommended it with such an air of Af-  
furance, and in such lively Expressions of  
Approbation, that the others came instant-  
ly over to his Opinion, and confirm'd his  
*Relish* with many additional Encomiums of  
their own.

MANY ingenious Reasons were given  
for the several *odd* Tastes and Looks of  
Things, which were presented to 'em at  
Table. "Some Meats were *wholesom*:  
"Others of a *high Taste*: Others accor-  
"ding to the manner of eating in *this* or  
"*that foreign Country*." Every Dish had  
the flavour of some celebrated Receipt in  
*Cookery*; and the *Wine*, and other Liquors,  
had, in their turn, the advantage of being  
treated in the same elegant strain. In short,  
our Gentlemen eat and drank heartily,  
and took up with their indifferent Fare so  
well, that 'twas apparent they had wrought  
upon themselves to *believe* they were tole-  
rably well serv'd.

THEIR

THEIR Servants, in the mean time, having laid no such Plot as this against themselves, kept to their *Senses*, and stood it out, “ That their Masters had certainly lost theirs. For how else cou’d they swallow so contentedly, and take all for good which was set before ’em ? ” —

HAD I to deal with a malicious Reader; he might perhaps pretend to infer from this *Story* of my travelling Friends, that I intended to represent it as an easy matter for People to persuade themselves into what *Opinion* or *Belief* they pleas’d. But it can never surely be thought, that Men of true *Judgment* and *Understanding* shou’d set about such a Task as that of perverting their own *Judgment*, and giving a wrong Bias to their *REASON*. They must easily foresee that an Attempt of this kind, shou’d it have the least Success, wou’d prove of far worse Consequence to them than any Perversion of their *Taste*, *Appetite*, or ordinary *Senses*.

I MUST confess it, however, to be my Imagination, that where fit Circumstances concur, and many inviting Occasions offer from the side of Mens *Interest*, their *Humour*, or their *Passion*; ’tis no extraordinary Case to see ’em enter into such a Plot as this against their own Understand-

Misc. 2.ings, and endeavour by all possible means  
 ~~~~ to persuade both themselves and others of  
 what they think *convenient* and *useful to believe.*

If in many particular Cases, where Favour and Affection prevail, it be found so easy a thing with us, to impose upon ourselves; it cannot surely be very hard to do it, where we take for granted, *our highest Interest is concern'd*. Now it is certainly no small *Interest* or *Concern* with Men, to believe what is by Authority establish'd; since in the Case of Disbelief there can be no Choice left but either to live *a Hypocrite*, or be esteem'd *profane*. Even where Men are left to themselves, and allow'd the Freedom of their Choice, they are still forward enough *in believing*; and can officiously endeavour to persuade themselves of the Truth of any flattering Imposture.

Nor is it unusual to find Men successful in this *Endeavour*: As, among other Instances, may appear by the many *religious Faiths* or *Opinions*, however preposterous or contradictory, which, Age after Age, we know to have been rais'd on the Foundation of *Miracles* and pretended *Commissions* from Heaven. These have been as generally espous'd and passionately cherish'd as the greatest Truths and most cer-

tain Revelations. 'Tis hardly to be sup- Ch. 3.  
pos'd that such Combinations shou'd be ~~over~~  
form'd, and Forgerys erected with such  
Success and Prevalency over the Under-  
standings of Men, did not *they themselves*  
co-operate, of their own accord, towards  
the Imposture, and shew, "That by a  
"good-Will and hearty Desire of believing;  
"they had in reality a considerable Hand  
"in the Deceit."

"TIS certain that in a Country, where FAITH has, for a long time, gone by *Inheritance*, and *Opinions* are entail'd by *Law*, there is little room left for the Vulgar to alter their Persuasion, or deliberate on the Choice of their religious Belief. Whensover a Government thinks fit to concern itself with Mens *Opinions*, and by its absolute Authority impose any particular *Belief*, there is none perhaps ever so ridiculous or monstrous in which it needs doubt of having good Success. This we may see thoroughly effected in certain Countrys, by a steady Policy, and found Application of Punishment and Reward: with the Assistance of *particular Courts* erected to this end; *peculiar Methods* of Justice; *peculiar Magistrates* and *Officers*; proper *Inquests*, and certain *wholesom Severitys*, not slightly administer'd, and play'd with, (as certain Triflers propose) but duly and properly inforc'd; as is absolutely requisite to this end

Misc. 2. of strict *Conformity*, and *Unity* in one and  
 ~~~ the same Profession, and manner of Worship.

BUT shou'd it happen to be *the TRUTH* it-self which was thus effectually propagated by the Means we have describ'd ; the very Nature of such *Means* can, however, allow but little Honour to the *Propagators*, and little Merit to the *Disciples* and *Believers*. 'Tis certain that MAHOMETISM, PAGANISM, JUDAISM, or any other BELIEF may stand, as well as *the trueſt*, upon this Foundation. He who is now an *Orthodox CHRISTIAN*, wou'd by virtue of such a Discipline have been infallibly as true a MUSSULMAN, or as errant a HERETICK ; had his Birth happen'd in another place.

FOR this reason there can be no rational Belief but where *Comparison* is allow'd, *Examination* permitted, and a sincere *Toleration* establish'd. And in this case, I will presume to say, " That *Whatever BELIEF* " is once espous'd or countenanc'd by the " Magistrate, it will have a sufficient ad- " vantage ; without any help from Force " or Menaces on one hand, or extraordi- " nary Favour and partial Treatment on " the other." If *the BELIEF* be in any measure consonant to *Truth* and *Reason*, it will find as much favour in the Eyes of Mankind, as *Truth* and *Reason* need desire.

Whatever

Whatever Difficultys there may be in any Ch. 3. particular *Speculations* or *Mysterys* belonging to it; the better sort of Men will endeavour to pass 'em over. They will believe (as our \* Author says) *to the full stretch of their REASON*, and add Spurs to their FAITH, in order to be the more *sociable*; and conform the better with what their Interest, in conjunction with their Good-Humour, inclines them to receive as credible, and observe as their *religious Duty* and *devotional Task*.

HERE it is that GOOD HUMOUR will naturally take place, and the *Hospitable Disposition* of our travelling Friends above-recited will easily transfer it-self into Religion, and operate in the same manner with respect to the *establish'd Faith* (however miraculous or incomprehensible) under a tolerating, mild, and gentle Government.

EVERY one knows, indeed, That by HERESY is understood a Stubbornness in *the Will*, not a Defect merely in *the Understanding*. On this account 'tis impossible that an honest and *good-humour'd* Man shou'd be a *Schismatick* or *Heretick*, and affect to separate from his national Worship on slight Reason, or without severe *Provocation*.

\* Letter of Enthusiasm, VOL. I. pag. 34.

Misc. 2.

To be pursu'd by *petty INQUISITORS*; to be threatned with *Punishment*, or *penal Laws*; to be *mark'd out* as dangerous and suspected; to be rail'd at in *high Places*, with all the study'd Wit and Art of Calumny; are indeed sufficient Provocations to *ill Humour*, and may force People to *divide*, who at first had never any such Intention. But the Virtue of *Good-Humour* in *RELIGION* is such, that it can even reconcile Persons to a Belief, in which they were never bred, or to which they had conceiv'd a former Prejudice.

FROM these Considerations we cannot but of course conclude, "That there is nothing so ridiculous in respect of Policy, or so wrong and odious in respect of common Humanity, as a *moderate* and *half-way PERSECUTION*." It only frets the Sore; it raises the *Ill-humour* of Mankind; excites the keener Spirits; moves Indignation in Beholders; and sows the very Seeds of Schism in Mens bosoms. A *resolute* and *bold-fac'd PERSECUTION* leaves no time or scope for these engendering Distempers, or gathering Ill-humours. It does the work at once; by *Extirpation*, *Banishment*, or *Massacre*; and like a bold Stroke in Surgery, dispatches by one short *Amputation*, what a bungling Hand wou'd make worse and worse, to the

the perpetual Sufferance and Misery of the Ch. 3.  
Patient.

IF there be on earth a proper way to render the most sacred Truth suspected, 'tis by supporting it with *Threats*, and pretending to *terrify* People into the Belief of it. This is a sort of daring Mankind in a Cause, where they know themselves superior, and out of reach. The weakest Mortal finds within himself, that tho' he may be *out-witted* and *deluded*, he can never be *forc'd* in what relates to his *Opinion* or *Affent*. And there are few Men so ignorant of human Nature, and of what they hold in common with their Kind, as not to comprehend, "That where great  
" Vehemence is express'd by any-one in  
" what relates solely to *another*, 'tis sel-  
" dom without some private Interest of  
" *his own.*"

IN common Matters of Dispute, the angry Disputant makes the best Cause to appear the worst. A *Clown* once took a fancy to hear the *Latin* Disputes of Doctors at a University. He was ask'd what pleasure he could take in viewing such Combatants, when he could never know so much as which of the Partys had the better. "For that matter, reply'd the *Clown*, I a'n't such a Fool neither, but I can see who's the first that puts t'other

H 4                    " into

Misc. 2. "into a Passion." Nature her-self dictated this Lesson to the Clown; "That he  
" who had the better of the Argument,  
" wou'd be *easy* and *well-humour'd*: But  
" he who was unable to support his Cause  
" by Reason, wou'd naturally lose his  
" Temper, and grow *violent*."

WERE two Travellers agreed to tell their Story separate in publick: the one being a Man of Sincerity, but *positive* and *dogmatical*; the other less sincere, but *easy* and *good-humour'd*: tho' it happen'd that the Accounts of this latter Gentleman were of the more miraculous sort; they wou'd yet sooner gain Belief, and be more favourably receiv'd by Mankind, than the strongly asserted Relations and vehement Narratives of the other *fierce* Defender of the Truth.

THAT GOOD HUMOUR is a chief Cause of Compliance, or Acquiescence in matters of *Faith*, may be prov'd from the very *Spirit* of those, whom we commonly call CRITICKS. 'Tis a known Prevention against the Gentlemen of this Character; "That they are generally *ill-humour'd*, and *spleenetick*." The World will needs have it, That their *Spleen* disturbs 'em. And I must confess I think the World in general to be so far right in this Conceit, That tho' all *Criticks* perhaps are

are not necessarily *splenetick*; all *splenetick* Ch. 3. People (whether naturally such, or made so by ill Usage) have a necessary Propensity to *Criticism* and *Satir*. When Men are *easy* in themselves, they let others remain so; and can readily comply with what seems *plausible*, and is thought conducting to the *Quiet* or *good Correspondence* of Mankind. They study to raise no Difficultys or Doubts. And in religious Affairs, 'tis seldom that they are known forward to entertain ill Thoughts or Surmises, whilst they are unmolested. But if disturb'd by groundless Arraignments and Suspicions, by unnecessary Invectives, and bitter Declamations, and by a contentious quarrelsom Aspect of Religion; they naturally turn *Criticks*, and begin to question every thing. The Spirit of *Satir* rifes with the *ill Mood*: and the chief Passion of Men thus diseas'd and thrown out of Good Humour, is to find fault, censure, unravel, confound, and leave nothing without exception and controversy.

THESE are the *Scepticks* or *Scrupulists*, against whom there is such a Clamor rais'd. 'Tis evident, in the mean while, that the very *Clamor* it-self, join'd with the usual Menaces and Shew of Force, is that which chiefly raises this *sceptical* Spirit, and helps to multiply the number of these inquisitive and *ill-humour'd* CRITICKS.

Misc. 2. TICKS. Mere Threats, without power  
 ↞ of Execution, are only exasperating and provocative. They \* who are Masters of the *carnal* as well as *spiritual* Weapon, may apply each at their pleasure, and in what proportion they think necessary. But where the Magistrate resolves stedily to reserve his *Fasces* for his own proper Province, and keep the Edg-Tools and deadly Instruments out of other Hands, 'tis in vain for spiritual Pretenders to take such magisterial Airs. It can then only become them to brandish such Arms, when they have strength enough to make the Magistrate resign his Office, and become *Provost* or *Executioner* in their service.—

SHOUD any one who happens to read these Lines, perceive in himself a rising Animosity against the Author, for asserting thus zealously the Notion of a *religious Liberty*, and *mutual Toleration*; 'tis wish'd that he wou'd maturely deliberate on the Cause of his Disturbance and Ill-humour. Wou'd he deign to look narrowly into himself, he wou'd undoubtedly find that it is not ZEAL for *Religion* or the *Truth*, which moves him on this occasion. For had he happen'd to be in a Nation where he was no *Conformist*, nor had any Hope or Expectation of obtaining the Prece-

\* *Supra*, pag. 94.

dency for his *own* Manner of Worship, he Ch. 3.  
wou'd have found nothing preposterous in         
this our Doctrine of *Indulgence*. 'Tis a  
Fact indisputable, that whatever Sect or  
Religion is undermost, tho' it may have  
persecuted at any time before; yet as soon  
as it begins to suffer Persecution in its  
turn, it recurs instantly to the Principles  
of MODERATION, and maintains this  
our Plea for *Complacency, Sociableness, and*  
*Good Humour in Religion*. The My-  
tery therefore of this Animosity, or rising  
Indignation of my devout and zealous  
*Reader*, is only this; "That being *devoted*  
" to the Interest of *a Party* already in pos-  
"session or expectation of the temporal  
"Advantages annex'd to a particular Be-  
"lief; he fails not, as a zealous *Party-*  
*Man*, to look with jealousy on every  
"unconformable Opinion, and is sure to  
"justify those *Means* which he thinks  
"proper to prevent its growth." He  
knows that if in Matters of Religion any  
one believes amiss, 'tis at his own peril.  
If *Opinion* damns; *Vice* certainly does as  
much. Yet will our Gentleman easily  
find, if he inquires the least into *himself*,  
that he has no such furious Concern for  
the Security of Mens *Morals*, nor any  
such violent Resentment of their *Vices*,  
when they are such as no-way incom-  
mode him. And from hence it will be  
easy for him to infer, "That the Paffion  
"he

Misc. 2. " he feels on this occasion, is not from  
" ~~pure~~ " pure ZEAL, but *private INTEREST*,  
" and *worldly EMULATION.*"

COME we now (as authentick Rhetoricians express themselves) to our *second Head*: which we shou'd again subdivide into *Firſts* and *Seconds*, but that this manner of carving is of late days grown much out of fashion,

'TWAS the Custom of our Ancestors, perhaps as long ſince as the days of our hospitable *King ARTHUR*, to have nothing ſerv'd at Table but what was *intire* and ſubſtantial. 'Twas a whole Boar, or ſolid Ox which made the *Feaſt*. The Figure of the Animal was preferv'd intire, and the *Diſfection* made in form by the appointed *Carver*, a Man of Might as well as profound Craft and notable Dexterity; who was ſeen erect, with goodly Mein and Action, *displaying* Heads and Members, *dividing* according to Art, and *distributing* his Subject-matter into proper *Parts*, ſuitable to the Stomachs of thoſe he ſerv'd. In latter days 'tis become the Fashion to eat with leſſ Ceremony and Method. Every-one chufes to *carve* for himſelf. The learned Manner of *Diſfection* is out of request; and a certain Method of Cookery has been introduc'd; by which

which the *anatomical* Science of the Table Ch. 3.<sup>o</sup> is intirely set aside. *Ragouts* and *Fricassées* are the reigning Dishes, in which every thing is so dismember'd and thrown out of all Order and Form, that no Part of the Mass can properly be *divided*, or distinguish'd from another.

FASHION is indeed a powerful Mistress, and by her single Authority has so far degraded the carving Method and Use of *Solids*, even in Discourse and Writing, that our religious Pastors themselves have many of 'em chang'd their Manner of distributing to us their spiritual Food. They have quitted their substantial Service, and uniform Division into *Parts* and *Under-Parts*; and in order to become fashionable, they have run into the more favoury way of learned *Ragout* and *Medley*. 'Tis the unbred rustick Orator alone, who presents his clownish Audience with a *divisible Discourse*. The elegant Court-Divine exhorts in MISCELLANY, and is ashame'd to bring his *Two's* and *Three's* before a fashio-nable Assembly.

SHOU'D I therefore, as a mere *Miscellanarian* or *Essay*-Writer, forgetting what I had premis'd, be found to drop a *Head*, and lose the connecting Thred of my present Discourse; the Case perhaps wou'd not be so preposterous. For fear however left

Misc. 2. lest I shou'd be charg'd for being worse  
 than my word, I shall endeavour to satisfy  
 my Reader, by pursuing my *Method* pro-  
 pos'd: if peradventure he can call to mind,  
 what that Method was. Or if he cannot,  
 the matter is not so very important, but he  
 may safely pursue his reading, without fur-  
 ther trouble.

To proceed, therefore. Whatever Means  
 or Methods may be employ'd at any time  
 in maintaining or propagating *a religious*  
*Belief* already current and establish'd, 'tis  
 evident that the first Beginnings must have  
 been founded in that natural Complac-  
 ency, and GOOD HUMOUR, which inclines  
 to Trust and Confidence in Man-  
 kind. Terrors alone, tho accompany'd  
 with Miracles and Prodigys of whatever  
 kind, are not capable of raising that sin-  
 cere Faith and absolute Reliance which is  
 requir'd in favour of the divinely autho-  
 riz'd *Instructor*, and spiritual *Chief*. The  
 Affection and Love which procures a true  
 Adherence to the new religious Founda-  
 tion, must depend either on a real or coun-  
 terfeit \* GOODNESS in the *religious Foun-*  
*der*. Whatever ambitious Spirit may in-  
 spire him; whatever savage Zeal or perse-  
 cuting Principle may lie in reserve, ready  
 to disclose it-self when Authority and

\* VOL. I. pag. 94. and VOL. II. pag. 334.

Power is once obtain'd ; the *First* Scene of Ch. 3.  
Doctrine, however, fails not to present us ~~with~~  
with the agreeable Views of *Joy, Love,*  
*Meekness, Gentleness, and Moderation.*

IN this respect, RELIGION, according to the common Practice in many Sects, may be compar'd to that sort of *Courtship*, of which the Fair Sex are known often to complain. In the Beginning of an Amour, when these innocent Charmers are first accosted, they hear of nothing but *tender Vows, Submission, Service, Love.* But soon afterwards, when won by this Appearance of Gentleness and Humility, they have resign'd themselves, and are no longer *their own*, they hear a different Note, and are taught to understand *Submission and Service* in a sense they little expected. *Charity and Brotherly Love* are very engaging Sounds : But who wou'd dream that out of abundant Charity and Brotherly Love shou'd come *Steel, Fire, Gibbets, Rods*, and such a found and hearty Application of these Remedys as shou'd at once advance the worldly Greatness of religious Pastors, and the particular Interest of private Souls, for which they are so charitably concern'd ?

IT has been observ'd by our \* Author,  
“ That the JEWS were naturally a very

\* Letter of Enthusiasm, VOL. I. pag. 29. And above,  
pag. 55, 56..

“ cloudy

Misc. 2. "cloudy People." That they had certainly in Religion, as in every thing else, the least *Good-Humour* of any People in the World, is very apparent. Had it been otherwise, their holy Legislator and Deliverer, who was declar'd \* *the meekest Man on Earth*, and who for many years together had by the most popular and kind Acts endeavour'd to gain their Love and Affection, wou'd in all probability have treated them afterwards with more Sweetness, and been able with † less Blood and Massacre to retain them in their religious Duty. This however we may observe, That if the first Jewish Princes and celebrated Kings acted in reality according to the Institutions of their great Founder, not only MUSICK, but even PLAY and DANCE, were of holy Appointment, and divine Right. The first Monarch of this Nation, tho of a *melancholy Complexion*, join'd MUSICK with his spiritual Exercises, and even us'd it as a Remedy under that *dark ENTHUSIASM* or ‡ *evil Spirit*; which how far it might resemble that of *Prophecy*, experienc'd by him \*\* even after his

\* Numb. Ch. xii. ver. 3.

† Exod. Ch. xxxii. ver. 27, &c. And Numb. Ch. xvi. ver. 41.

‡ 1 Sam. Ch. xviii. ver. 10. And Ch. xix. ver. 9.

\*\* Ibid. ver. 23, 24.

Apostacy, our \* Author pretends not to determine. 'Tis certain that the Successor of this Prince was a hearty Espouser of the *merry Devotion*, and by his example has shewn it to have been fundamental in the religious Constitution of his People. † The famous *Entry* or *high Dance* perform'd by him, after so conspicuous a manner, in the Procession of the sacred *Coffer*, shews that he was not ashame'd of expressing any Extasy of Joy or ‡ playsom *Humour*, which was practis'd by the \*\* meanest of the Priests or People on such an occasion.

\* Letter of Enthusiasm, VOL. I. pag. 45.

† 2 Sam. Ch. vi. ver. 5, 14, & 16.

‡ Ibid. ver. 22.

\*\* Tho' this *Dance* was not perform'd quite naked, the Dancers, it seems, were so slightly cloth'd, that in respect of Modesty, they might as well have wore nothing: their Nakedness appearing still by means of their high Caperings, Leaps, and violent Attitudes, which were proper to this *Dance*. The Reader, if he be curious, may examine what relation this religious Extasy and naked *Dance* had to the *naked* and *processional Prophecy*; (1 Sam. Ch. xix. ver. 23, & 24.) where Prince, Priest, and People prophesy'd in conjunction: the Prince himself being both of the *itinerant* and *naked* Party. It appears that even before he was yet advanc'd to the Throne, he had been seiz'd with this prophesying Spirit *errant*, *processional*, and *saltant*, attended, as we find, with a sort of Martial *Dance* perform'd in Troops or Companys, with Pipe and Tabret accompanying the March, together with Psaltry, Harp, Cornets, Tambrels, and other variety of Musick. See 1 Sam. Ch. x. ver. 5. and Ch. xix. ver. 23, 24, &c. and 2 Sam. Ch. vi. ver. 5. And above, Letter of Enthusiasm, VOL. I. pag. 45.

Misc. 2.

BESIDES the many Songs and Hymns dispers'd in Holy Writ, the Book of *Psalms* it-self, *Job*, *Proverbs*, *Canticles*, and other intire Volumes of the sacred Collection, which are plainly *Poetry*, and full of humorous Images, and jocular Wit, may sufficiently shew how readily the inspir'd Authors had recourse to **HUMOUR** and **DIVERSION**, as a proper Means to promote *Religion*, and strengthen the establish'd *Faith*.

WHEN the Affairs of the *Jewish* Nation grew desperate, and every thing seem'd tending to a total Conquest and Captivity, the Style of their holy Writers and Prophets might well vary from that of earlier days, in the Rise and Vigor of their Common-wealth, or during the first Splendor of their Monarchy, when the Princes themselves prophesy'd, and potent Kings were of the number of the Sacred Pen-men. This still we may be assur'd of; That however *melancholy* or *ill-humour'd* any of the Prophets may appear at any time, 'was not that kind of Spirit, which *God* was wont to encourage in them. Witness the Case of the Prophet *JONAH*; whose Character is so naturally describ'd in Holy Writ.

PETTISH

PETTISH as this Prophet was, unlike a Man, and resembling rather some refractory boyish *Pupil*; it may be said that GOD, as a kind *Tutor*, was pleas'd to *humour him*, bear with his Anger, and in a lusory manner, expose his childish Forwardness, and shew him *to himself*.

" \* ARISE (said his gracious Lord) and " go to NINIVE." " No such matter," says our Prophet to himself; but away over-Sea for TARSHISH. He fairly plays the Truant, like an arch *School-Boy*; hoping to hide out of the way. But his *Tutor* had good Eyes, and a long Reach. He overtook him at Sea; where a Storm was ready prepar'd for his Exercise, and a Fish's Belly for his Lodging. The Renegade found himself in harder Durance than any at Land. He was sufficiently mortify'd: He grew good, pray'd, moraliz'd, and spoke mightily against † *Lying Vanitys*.

AGAIN, ‡ the Prophet is taken into favour, and bid *go to NINIVE*, to foretel Destruction. He foretels it. NINIVE repents: God pardons: and the Prophet is angry.

\* Jonah, Ch. i, &c.

† Ibid. Ch. ii. ver. 8.

‡ Ch. iii. ver. 1, &c.

Misc. 2.

~~~ " \* L O R D ! — Did I not foresee what  
 " this wou'd come to ? *Was not this my*  
 " *Saying, when I was safe and quiet at*  
 " *home?* — What else shou'd I have run  
 " away for ? — As if I knew not how  
 " little dependence there was on the Reso-  
 " lution of those, who are always so ready  
 " to forgive, and *repent* of what they  
 " have determin'd. — No ! — Strike  
 " me *dead!* — *Take my Life,* this moment.  
 " 'Tis better for me. — If ever I prophesy  
 " again." \* \* \* \* \*

" † A N D D oſt thou well then to be thus  
 " angry, J O N A H ? Consider with thy-self.  
 " — Come ! — Since thou wilt needs retire  
 " out of the City, to see at a distance *what*  
 " *will come of it* ; here, Take a better  
 " Fence than thy own *Booth* against the  
 " hot Sun which incommodes Thee. Take  
 " this tall *Plant* as a *shady Covering* for  
 " thy Head. Cool thy-self, and be *deli-*  
 " *ver'd from thy Grief.*"

W H E N the Almighty had shown this Indulgence to the Prophet, he grew better-humour'd, and pass'd a tolerable Night. But the † next morning the *Worm* came,

\* Jonah, Ch. iv. ver. 1, 2, 3.

† Ver. 4, 5, 6.

‡ Ver. 7, 8.

and

and an *East*-Wind : the Arbor was nip'd : Ch. 3. the Sun shone vehemently, and the Prophet's Head was heated, as before. Presently the ill Mood returns, and the Prophet is at the old pass. " *Better die,*  
 " *than live at this rate.—Death, Death*  
 " *alone can satisfy me. Let me hear no*  
 " *longer of Living.—No!—’Tis in*  
 " *vain to talk of it.”—*

AGAIN \* GOD expostulates ; but is taken up short, and answer'd churlishly, by the testy Prophet. " Angry he *is* ;  
 " angry he *ought to be*, and angry he *will be, to his Death.*" But the ALMIGHTY, with the utmost pity towards him, in this *melancholy* and *froward Temper*, lays open the Folly of it ; and exhorts to *Mildness*, and *Good Humour*, in the most tender manner, and under the most *familiar* and *pleasant Images* ; whilst he shews † *expressly* more Regard and Tenderness to the very *CATTEL* and *Brute-Beasts*, than the Prophet to his own *HUMAN KIND*, and to those very *Disciples* whom by his Preaching he had converted.

IN the antienter Parts of Sacred Story, where the Beginning of things, and Origin of human Race are represented to us,

\* Ver. 9.

† See the last Verse of this Prophet.

Misc. 2. there are sufficient Instances of this *Familiarity of Style*, this popular pleasant Intercourse, and Manner of Dialogue between \* GOD and *Man*: I might add even between † *Man* and *Beast*; and what is still more extraordinary, between GOD and ‡ SATAN.

WHATSOEVER of this kind may be allegorically understood, or in the way of PARABLE or FABLE; this I am sure of, That the Accounts, Descriptions, Narrations, Expressions, and Phrases are in themselves many times exceedingly pleasant, entertaining, and facetious. But fearing lest I might be mis-interpreted, shou'd I offer to set these Passages in their proper Light, (which however has been perform'd by undoubted good Christians, and most learned and \*\* eminent Divines of our own Church) I forbear to go any further into the Examination or Criticism of this sort.

As for our Saviour's Style, 'tis not more vehement and majestick in his gravest Animadversions or declamatory Discourses; than it is sharp, humorous, and witty in

\* Gen. Ch. iii. ver. 9, &c.

† Numb. Ch. xxii. ver. 28, &c.

‡ (1.) Job, Ch. i, & ii.

(2.) 2 Chron. Ch. xviii. ver. 18, 19, &c.

\*\* See BURNET, Archæol. cap. 7. p. 280, &c.

his Repartees, Reflections, fabulous Narrations, or Parables, Similes, Comparisons, and other Methods of *milder* Censure and Reproof. His Exhortations to his Disciples; his particular Designation of their Manners; the pleasant Images under which he often couches his Morals and prudential Rules; even his Miracles themselves (especially the \* first he ever wrought) carry with them a certain *Festivity*, *Alacrity*, and *GOOD HUMOUR* so remarkable, that I shou'd look upon it as impossible not to be mov'd in a pleasant manner at their Recital.

Now, if what I have here asserted in behalf of *PLEASANTRY* and *HUMOUR*, be found just and real in respect of the *Jewish* and *Christian* Religions; I doubt not, it will be yielded to me, in respect of the antient *Heathen* Establishments; that the highest Care was taken by their original Founders, and following Reformers, to exhilarate Religion, and correct that *Melancholy* and *Gloominess* to which it is subject; according to those different Modifications of † *ENTHUSIASM* above specify'd.

\* St JOHN, Chap. ii. ver. 11.

† Above, Chap. i. ii.

Misc. 2.

OUR Author, as I take it, has \* elsewhere shewn that these *Founders* were real *Musicians*, and *Improvers* of *Poetry*, *Musick*, and the *entertaining Arts*; which they in a manner *incorporated* with Religion: Not without good reason; as I am apt to imagine. For to me it plainly appears, That in the early times of all Religions, when Nations were yet barbarous and savage, there was ever an Aptness or Tendency towards the dark part of Superstition, which among many other Horrors produc'd that of *human Sacrifice*. Something of this nature might possibly be deduc'd even from † Holy Writ. And

\* VOL. I. pag. 237.

† Gen. chap. xxii. ver. 1, 2, &c. and Judg. chap. xi. ver. 30, 31, &c.

These Places relating to ABRAHAM and JEPHTHAH, are cited only with respect to the Notion which these Primitive Warriors may be said to have entertain'd concerning this horrid Enormity, so common among the Inhabitants of the Palestine and other neighbouring Nations. It appears that even the elder of these Hebrew Princes was under no extreme Surprize on this trying Revelation. Nor did he think of expostulating, in the least, on this occasion; when at another time he cou'd be so importunate for the Pardon of an inhospitable, murderous, impious and incestuous City; Gen. xviii. 23, &c. See Marsham's Citations, pag. 76, 77. *Ex istis satius est colligere hanc Abrahami Tentationem non fuisse negotium quod per se esse, actionem innovatam; non re- cens excoitatam, sed ad pristinos Canaanorum mores desig- natam.* See the learned CAPEL's Dissertation upon JEPHTHAH; " *Ex his voti Lege* (Lev. xxvii. ver. 28, " 29.) *JEPHTE Filiam omnino videtur immolasse, hoc* " *est, morte affecisse, & executus est in ea votum quod ipse* " *voverat, Jud. xi. 39.*"

in

in other Historys we are inform'd of it Ch. 3.  
more at large.

EVERY one knows how great a Part of the old *Heathen* Worship consisted in *Play*, *Poetry*, and *Dance*. And tho some of the more melancholy and superstitious Votarys might approach the Shrines of their DIVINITYs with mean *Grimaces*, *Crouchings*, and other *fawning* Actions, betraying the low Thoughts they had of the Divine Nature; yet 'tis well known, that in those times the *illiberal* \* *sycophantick* manner of Devotion was by the wiser sort contemn'd, and oft suspected, † as knavish and indirect.

\* See VOL. I. pag. 35.

† ——*Non tu prece poscis emaci, &c.*

*Haud cuivis promptum est, murmurque humilesque su-  
furros,*

*Tollere de Templis.* —

*De Jove quid sentis? Estne, ut præponere cures*

*Hunc cuinam?* —

*Quâ tu mercede Deorum*

*Emeris auriculas?* —

*O curvæ in terris animæ, & cœlestium inanes!*

*Quid juvat hoc, Templis nostros immittere mores,*

*Et bona Diis ex hac scelerata ducere pulpâ?*

Perf. Sat. ii. ver. 3.

*Non est meum, si mugiat Africis*

*Malus procellis, ad miserias preces*

*Decurrere.* —

Hor. lib. iii. Od. 29. ver. 57.

† See VOL. I. pag. 133. And above, pag. 79. in the Notes.

Misc. 2.

How different an Air and Aspect the good and virtuous were presum'd to carry with them to the Temple, let PLUTARCH singly, instead of many others, witness, in his excellent Treatise of \* *Superstition*;

\* Ὡ θάρβαρος ἔξευσόντες Ἑλληνες πατὰ τὴν σεισθαιμονίαν, των λόγοις, παταρεῖσοντες, σαβατισμόντες, ρίψεις ἐπὶ τερψώντων διχρύσις, περσικάδίστεις, ἀλλοκότες τερποκρύνοντες, &c. †  
 “O wretched GREEKS! (says he, speaking to his then declining Countrymen) who in a way of Superstition run so easily into the Relish of barbarous Nations, and bring into Religion, that frightful Mein of sordid and vilifying Devotion, ill-favour'd Humiliation and Contrition, abject Looks and Countenances, Confesternations, Prostrations, Distraughtings, and, in the Act of Worship, Distortions, constrain'd and painful Postures of the Body, wry Faces, beggerly Tones, Mumpings, Grimaces, Cringings, and the rest of this kind— A shame indeed to us Grecians!— For to us, we know, 'tis prescrib'd from of old by our peculiar Laws concerning Musick, and the publick Chorus's, that we shou'd perform in the handsomest manner, and with a just and manly Countenance, avoiding those Grimaces and Contortions of which some Singers contract a Habit. And shall we not in the more immediate Worship of the DEITY preserve this liberal Air and manly Appearance? Or, on the contrary, whilst we are nicely observant of other Forms and Decencies in the Temple, shall we neglect this greater Decency in Voice, Words, and Manners; and with vile Cries, Fawnings, and prostitute Behaviour, betray the natural Dignity and Majesty of that Divine Religion and National Worship deliver'd down to us by our Forefathers, and purg'd from every thing of a barbarous and savage kind?”

What PLUTARCH mentions here, of the *just Countenance* or *liberal Air*, the *sôphia finior*, of the Musical Performer, is agreeably illustrated in his *ALCIBIADES*. 'Twas that heroick Youth, who, as appears by this Historian, first gave occasion to the *ATHENIANS* of the higher Rank wholly to abandon the use of *Flutes*; which had before been

† Plutarchi Oper. T. II. pag. 166. Ed. Fran.

persifition ; and in another against the *Epi-* Ch. 3.  
*curean Atheism*, where it will plainly ~~be~~  
enough

been highly in favour with them. The Reason given, was  
“ the illiberal Air which attended such Performers, and the  
“ unmanly Disfigurement of their Looks and Countenance,  
“ which this Piping-work produc’d.” As for the real Figure  
or Plight of the *superstitious Mind*, our Author thus de-  
scribes it : “ Gladly wou’d the poor comfortless Mind, by  
“ whiles, keep Festival and rejoice : But such as its Reli-  
“ gion is, there can be no free Mirth or Joy belonging to it.  
“ Publick Thanksgivings are but private Mourning. Sighs  
“ and Sorrows accompany its Praises. Fears and Horrors  
“ corrupt its best Affections. When it assumes the outward  
“ Ornaments of best Apparel for the Temple, it even then  
“ strikes Melancholy, and appears in Paleness and ghastly  
“ Looks. While it worships, it trembles. It sends up Vows  
“ in faint and feeble Voices, with eager Hopes, Desires, and  
“ Passions, discoverable in the whole Disorder of the outward  
“ Frame : and, in the main, it evinces plainly by Practice,  
“ that the Notion of PYTHAGORAS was but vain, who  
“ dar’d assert, That we were then in the best State, and  
“ carry’d our most becoming Looks with us, when we ap-  
“ proach’d the Gods. For then, above all other Seasons, are  
“ the Superstitious found in the most abject miserable State of  
“ Mind, and with the meanest Presence and Behaviour ;  
“ approaching the Sacred Shrines of the Divine Powers in the  
“ same manner as they wou’d the Dens of Bears or Lions,  
“ the Caves of Basilisks or Dragons, or other hidous Rece-  
“ ses of wild Beasts or raging Monsters. To me therefore it  
“ appears wonderful, that we shou’d arraign Atheism as  
“ impious ; whilst Superstition escapes the Charge. Shall he  
“ who holds there are no Divine Powers, be esteem’d im-  
“ pious ; and shall not he be esteem’d far more impious, who  
“ holds the Divine Beings such in their Nature as the Super-  
“ stitious believe and represent ? For my own part, I had  
“ rather Men shou’d say of me, &c.” See VOL. I. pag.  
41. in the Notes. Nothing can be more remarkable than  
what our Author says again, a little below. † “ The Atheist  
believes there is no Deity ; the Religionist, or superstitious  
Believer, wishes there were none. If he believes, ‘tis a-  
gainst his Will : mistrust he dares not, nor call his Thought  
in question. But cou’d he with Security, at once, throw  
“ off

† Ibid. 170.

Misc. 2. enough appear \* what a share GOOD  
 HUMOUR had in that which the politer  
 Antients esteem'd as *Piety*, and true *Religion*.

" off that oppressive Fear, which like the Rock of TANTALUS impends, and presses over him, he wou'd with equal Joy spurn his enslaving Thought, and embrace the Athcif's State and Opinion as his happiest Deliverance.  
 " Atheists are free of Superstition, but the Superstitious are ever willing Atheists, tho' impotent in their Thought, and unable to believe of the Divine Being as they gladly wou'd.  
 " Νυνὶ δὲ τῷ ἐν Αθέω δειπνάμωντος ἐδὲν μέτεστιν δέ  
 " δειπνάμων τῷ προαιρέσθαι ἀθεότων, αὐτέντερος ἐστιν ἢ  
 " τῷ δεξαίκεν φει διῶν δέλεστα." See VOL. I. pag.

35, 36, 40, 41.

\* Where speaking of Religion, as it stood in the Heathen Church, and in his own time ; he confesses, " That as to the vulgar Disposition, there was no Remedy. Many even of the better sort wou'd be found, of course, to intermix with their Veneration and Esteem something of Terror or Fear in their religious Worship, which might give it perhaps the Character of SUPERSTITION : But that this Evil was a thousand times over-balanc'd by the Satisfaction, Hope, Joy, and Delight which attended religious Worship. This, says he, is plain and evident from the most demonstrable Testimony. For neither the Societys, or Publick Meetings in the Temples, nor the Festivals themselves, nor any other diverting Partys, Sights, or Entertainments, are more delightful or rejoicing than what we our-selves behold, and act in the Divine Worship, and in the Holy Sacrifices and Mysterys which belong to it. Our Disposition and Temper is not, on this occasion, as if we were in the Presence of worldly Potentates, dread Sovereigns, and despotic Princes. Nor are we here found meanly humbling our-selves, crouching in Fear and Awe, and full of Anxiety and Confusion, as wou'd be natural to us in such a Case. But where the Divinity is esteem'd the nearest, and most immediately present, there Horrors and Amazements are the furthest banish'd ; there the Heart, we find, gives freest way to Pleasure, to Entertainment, to Play, Mirth, Humour, and Diversion ; and this even to an Excess."

BUT

BUT NOW, methinks, I have been sufficiently *grave* and *serious*, in defense of what is directly contrary to Seriousness and Gravity. I have very *solemnly* pleaded for *Gaiety* and *Good HUMOUR*: I have declaim'd against *Pedantry* in learned Language, and oppos'd *Formality* in Form. I now find my-self somewhat impatient to get loose from the Constraint of *Method*: And I pretend lawfully to exercise the Privilege which I have asserted, of rambling from Subject to Subject, from Style to Style, in my MISCELLANEOUS manner, according to my present Profession and Character.

I MAY, in the mean while, be censur'd probably for passing over my *Third Head*. But the methodical Reader, if he be scrupulous about it, may content himself with looking back: And if possibly he can pick it out of my *Second*, he will forgive this Anticipation, in a Writing which is govern'd less by Form than Humour. I had indeed resolv'd with my-self to make a large Collection of Passages from our most eminent and learned Divines, in order to have set forth this *Latter Head* of my Chapter; and by better Authority than my own to have evinc'd, "That we  
" had in the main *a good-humour'd Reli-*  
" *gion.*"

Misc. 2. "gion." But after considering a little  
 ~~ while, I came to this short Issue with myself : " That it was better not to cite *at all*, than to cite *partially*." Now if I cited *fairly* what was said as well on the melancholy as the cheerful side of our Religion, the Matter, I found, wou'd be pretty doubtfully balanc'd : And the Result at last wou'd be this ; " That, generally speaking, as oft as a Divine was in good Humour, we shou'd find RELIGION *the sweetest and best-humour'd thing in Nature* : But at other times (and *that, pretty often*) we shou'd find a very different Face of Matters."

THUS are we alternately exalted and humbled, cheer'd and dejected, according as our spiritual \* Director is himself influenc'd : And this, peradventure, for our Edification and Advantage ; " That by these Contrarietys and Changes we may be render'd more supple and compliant." If we are very *low*, and *down* ; we are *taken up*. If we are *up*, and *high* ; we are *taken down*.—This is *Discipline*. This is *Authority* and *Command*. —Did Religion carry constantly *one and the same Face*, and were it always represented to us *alike* in every respect ; we might perhaps be overbold, and make Acquaintance with it, in

\* *Supra*, pag. 39.

too familiar a manner: We might think Ch. 3. our-selves fully knowing in it, and asur'd *of its true Character and Genius.* From whence perhaps we might become more refractory towards the Ghostly Teachers of it, and be apt to submit our-selves the less to those who, by Appointment and Authority, represent it to us, in such Lights, as they esteem most proper and convenient.

I SHALL therefore not only conclude abruptly, but even *sceptically* on this my last Head: referring my Reader to what has been said already, on my preceding Heads, for the bare probability " of our " having, in the main, a *witty and good-humour'd RELIGION.*"

THIS, however, I may presume to assert; That there are undoubtedly some *Countenances or Aspects* of our Religion, which are *humorous and pleasant* in themselves; and that the sadder Representations of it are many times so *over-fad and dismal*, that they are apt to excite a very contrary Passion to what is intended by the Reprefenters.

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## MISCELLANY III.

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### C H A P. I.

*Further Remarks on the Author of  
the Treatises.—His Order and  
Design.—His Remarks on the  
SUCCESSION of Wit, and Pro-  
gress of Letters, and Philosophy.  
—Of Words, Relations, Affec-  
tions.—Country-Men and Coun-  
try.—Old ENGLAND.—Pa-  
triots of the Soil.—Virtuosi, and  
Philosophers.—A TASTE.*

HAVING already asserted my Privilege, as a MISCELLANEOUS or ESSAY-Writer of the modern Establishment; to write on every Subject, and in every Method, as I fancy; to use Order, or lay it aside, as I think fit; and to treat of *Order* and *Method* in other Works, tho' free perhaps and unconfin'd as to my own: I shall presume, in this place,  
to

to consider the present Method and Order Ch. i. of my Author's Treatises, as in this joint-~~one~~ Edition they are rang'd.

NOTWITHSTANDING the high Airs of SCEPTICISM which our Author assumes in his first Piece ; I cannot, after all, but imagine that even there he proves himself, at the bottom, a *real Dogmatist*, and shews plainly that he has his private *Opinion, Belief, or Faith*, as strong as any *Devotee* or *Religionist* of 'em all. Tho' he affects perhaps to strike at other Hypotheses and Schemes ; he has something of his own still in reserve, and holds a certain *Plan or System* peculiar to himself, or such, at least, in which he has at present but few Companions or Followers.

ON this account I look upon his Management to have been much after the rate of some *ambitious Architect* ; who being call'd perhaps to prop a Roof, redress a leaning Wall, or add to some particular Apartment, is not contented with this small Specimen of his Mastership : but pretending to demonstrate the Un-serviceableness and Inconvenience of the *old* Fabrick, forms the Design of a *new* Building, and longs to shew his Skill in the principal Parts of Architecture and Mechanicks.

Misc. 3.

~~~ 'Tis certain that in matters of Learning and Philosophy, the Practice of *pulling down* is far pleasanter, and affords more Entertainment, than that of *building* and *setting up*. Many have succeeded, to a miracle, in the first, who have miserably fail'd in the latter of these Attempts. We may find a thousand Engineers, who can *sap*, *undermine*, and *blow up*, with admirable Dexterity, for one single-one, who can *build* a Fort, or lay the Plat-form of a Citadel. And tho' Compassion in *real* War may make the ruinous Practice less delightful, 'tis certain that in the *literate* warring-World, the springing of Mines, the blowing up of Towers, Bastions, and Ramparts of PHILOSOPHY, with *Systems*, *Hypotheses*, *Opinions*, and *Doctrines* into the Air, is a Spectacle of all other the most naturally rejoicing.

OUR Author, we suppose, might have done well to consider this. We have fairly conducted him thro' his *first* and *second* LETTER, and have brought him, as we see here, into his *third* Piece. He has hitherto, methinks, kept up his *sapping* Method, and *unravelling* Humour, with tolerable good Grace. He has given only some few, and very slender\* Hints of going further,

\* *Viz.* In the Letter of Enthusiasm, which makes Treatise I. See VOL. I. pag. 41, 43, 44, 49. at the end.—  
And

ther, or attempting to erect any Scheme Ch. 1. or Model, which may discover his Pretence to a real *Architect-Capacity*: Even in this his *Third Piece* he carrys with him the same *sceptical Mein*: and what he offers by way of *Project* or *Hypothesis*; is very faint, hardly spoken aloud; but mutter'd to himself, in a kind of dubious Whisper, or feign'd *SOLILOQUY*. What he discovers of *Form* and *Method*, is indeed so accompany'd with the random *Miscellaneous Air*, that it may pass for Raillery, rather than good Earnest. 'Tis in his following \* Treatise that he discovers himself openly, as a plain *Dogmatist*, a *Formalist*, and *Man of Method*; with his Hypotheses tack'd to him, and his Opinions so close-sticking, as wou'd force one to call to mind the Figure of some precise and strait-lac'd Professor in a University.

WHAT may be justly pleaded in his behalf, when we come in company with

And 54. concerning the *previous Knowledg.* —— So again, Treatise II. VOL. I. pag. 81, and 116. —— And again, Treatise III. VOL. I. pag. 294, 295, 297. where the INQUIRY is propos'd, and the System and Genealogy of the *Affections* previously treated; with an Apology (pag. 312.) for the *examining Practice*, and seeming Pedantry of the Method. —— And afterwards the Apology for Treatise IV. in Treatise V. VOL. II. pag. 263, 264. Concerning this Series and Dependency of these joint Treatises, see more particularly below, pag. 189, 190, 191, 284, &c.

\* *Viz.* Treatise V. The INQUIRY concerning Virtue, VOL. II.

Misc. 3. him, to *inquire* into such solemn and profound Subjects, seems very doubtful. Mean while, as his Affairs stand hitherto in this his Treatise of *Advice*, I shall be contented to yoke with him, and proceed, in my *miscellaneous* Manner, to give my *ADVICE* also to Men of Note; whether they are *Authors* or *Politicians*, *Virtuosi* or *Fine-Gentlemen*; comprehending *Him*, the said Author, as one of the Number of the Advis'd, and *My-self* too (if occasion be) after his own example of *Self-Admonition* and *private Address*.

BUT FIRST as to our Author's Dissertation in this \* *third* Treatise, where his Reflections upon *Authors* in general, and the *Rise and Progress of Arts*, make the Inlet or Introduction to his *Philosophy*; we may observe, That it is not without some appearance of Reason that he has advanc'd this Method. It must be acknowledg'd, that tho', in the earliest times, there may have been *divine* Men of a transcending Genius, who have given Laws both in Religion and Government, to the great Advantage and Improvement of Mankind; yet *PHILOSOPHY* it-self, as a *Science* and known *Profession* worthy of that name, cannot with any probability be suppos'd to have risen (as our Author shews) till other

\* VOL. I. pag. 236, 7, 8, 9, &c.

*Arts* had been rais'd, and, in a certain pro- Ch. I.  
portion, advanc'd before it. As this was of ~~the~~ the greatest Dignity and Weight, so it came  
*last* into Form. It was *long* clearing it-self from the affected Dress of *Sophists*, or En-  
thusiaſtſick Air of *Poets*; and appear'd *late* in its genuine, simple, and just Beauty.

THE Reader perhaps may justly excuse our Author for having \* in this place so over-loaded his Margin with those weighty Authoritys and antient Citations, when he knows that there are many grave Professors in Humanity and Letters among the Moderns, who are puzzled in this Search, and write both repugnantly to one another, and to the plain and *natural* Evidence of the Case. The real *Lineage* and *Suc-  
cession of Wit*, is indeed plainly founded in *Nature*: as our Author has endeavour'd to make appear both from *History* and *Faet*. The GREEK Nation, as it is *Original* to us, in respect to these polite *Arts* and *Sciences*, so it was in reality *original to it-self*. For whether the EGYPTIANS, PHENICIANS, THRACIANS, or BARBARIANS of any *kind*, may have hit fortunately on *this* or *that* particular Invention, either in Agriculture, Building, Navigation, or Letters; which-ever may have introduc'd *this* Rite of Worship, *this* Title of a Deity, *this* or *that* Instrument of Mu-

\* *Viz.* VOL. I. pag. 242, &c.

Misc. 3. sick, *this or that* Festival, Game, or Dance,   
 (for on this matter there are high Debates  
 among the Learned) 'tis evident, beyond  
 a doubt, that the *Arts* and *Sciences* were  
 form'd in GREECE it-self. 'Twas there  
 that *Musick*, *Poetry*, and the rest came to  
 receive some kind of shape, and be distin-  
 guish'd into their several Orders and De-  
 grees. Whatever flourish'd, or was rais'd  
 to any degree of Correctness, or real Per-  
 fection in the kind, was by means of  
 GREECE alone, and in the hand of that  
 sole polite, most civiliz'd, and accomplish'd  
 Nation.

NOR can this appear strange, when we  
 consider the fortunate Constitution of that  
 People. For tho compos'd of different Na-  
 tions, distinct in Laws and Governments,  
 divided by Seas and Continents, dispers'd  
 in distant Islands; yet being originally of  
 the same Extract, united by one single  
 Language, and animated by that social,  
 publick and *free* Spirit, which notwith-  
 standing the Animosity of their several  
 warring States, induc'd them to erect such  
 heroick Congresses and Powers as those  
 which constituted the AMPHICTONIAN  
 Councils, the OLYMPICK, ISTHMIAN,  
 and other *Games*; they cou'd not but na-  
 turally polish and refine each other. 'Twas  
 thus they brought their beautiful and com-  
 prehensive Language to a just Standard,  
 leaving

leaving only such Variety in the Dialects Ch. 1. as render'd their Poetry, in particular, so          much the more agreeable. The *Standard* was in the same proportion carry'd into other *Arts*. The *Secretion* was made. The several *Species* found, and set apart. The Performers and Masters in every kind, honour'd and admir'd. And, last of all, even CRITICKS themselves acknowledg'd and receiv'd as *Masters* over all the rest. From *Musick*, *Poetry*, *Rhetorick*, down to the simple Prose of *History*, thro' all the plas-tick Arts of *Sculpture*, *Statuary*, *Painting*, *Architecture*, and the rest; every thing *Muse-like*, graceful and exquisite, was rewarded with the highest Honours, and carry'd on with the utmost Ardor and Emula-tion. Thus GREECE, tho' she *exported* Arts to other Nations, had properly for her own share no *Import* of the kind. The ut-most which cou'd be nam'd, wou'd amount to no more than raw *Materials*, of a rude and barbarous form. And thus the Nation was evidently *Original* in Art; and with them every noble Study and Science was (as the great Master, so often cited by our Au-thor, says of certain kinds of Poetry) \* *self-*

\* Ἀυτοχθωσική. VOL. I. pag. 244. 'Tis in this sense of the *natural Production*, and *Self-Formation* of the Arts, in this Free State of antient GREECE, that the same great Master uses this Word a little before, in the same Chapter of his Poeticks, (*viz.* the 4th) speaking in general of the Poets: Κατὰ μηρὸν περάγοντες, ἐχίνησαν τὴν τοῖνον, ἐκ τοῦ αὐ-λοχηπλασμάτων. And presently after, Δέξεσθε δὲ γενομένης, αὐτὴν ή Φύσις τὸ σκεῖον μέτερον ἔησε.

Misc. 3. form'd, wrought out of Nature, and drawn  
from the necessary Operation and Course  
of things, working, as it were, of their  
own accord, and proper inclination. Now  
according to this *natural* Growth of Arts,  
peculiar to GREECE, it wou'd necessarily  
happen; That at the beginning, when  
the Force of Language came to be first  
prov'd; when the admiring World made  
their first *Judgment*, and essay'd their *Taste*  
in the Elegancys of this sort; the *Lofty*,  
the *Sublime*, the *Astonishing* and *Amazing*  
wou'd be the most in fashion, and prefer'd.  
*Metaphorical* Speech, Multiplicity of *Fi-*  
*gures* and *high*-ounding Words wou'd na-  
turally prevail. Tho in the Common-  
wealth it-self, and in the Affairs of Go-  
vernment, Men were us'd originally to  
plain and direct Speech; yet when Speak-  
ing became *an Art*, and was taught by So-  
phists, and other pretended Masters, the  
*high-poetick*, and the *figurative* Way be-  
gan to prevail, even at the Bar, and in the  
Publick Assemblys: Insomuch that the  
Grand-Master, in the \* above-cited part of  
his *Rhetoricks*, where he extols the Tra-  
gick Poet EURIPIDES, upbraids the Rhe-  
toricians of his own Age, who retain'd that  
very bombastick Style, which even Poets,  
and those too of the tragick kind, had  
already thrown off, or at least considerably

\* VOL. I. pag. 245. in the Notes.

mitigated. But the *Taste* of GREECE was Ch. 1. now polishing. A better Judgment was soon form'd, when a DEMOSTHENES was heard, and had found success. The People themselves (as our Author has shewn) came now to reform their COMEDY and familiar Manner, after TRAGEDY, and the higher Style, had been brought to its perfection under the last hand of an EURIPIDES. And now in all the principal Works of *Ingenuity* and *Art*, SIMPLICITY and NATURE began chiefly to be sought: And this was the TASTE which lasted thro' so many Ages, till the Ruin of all things, under a Universal Monarchy.

IF the Reader shou'd peradventure be led by his Curiosity to seek some kind of Comparison between this antient *Growth* of TASTE, and that which we have experienc'd in modern days, and within our own Nation; he may look back to the *Speeches* of our Ancestors in Parliament. He will find 'em generally speaking, to have been very short and plain, but coarse, and what we properly call *home-spun*; till *Learning* came in vogue, and *Science* was known amongst us. When our Princes and Senators became Scholars, they spoke *scholaistically*. And the *pedantick Style* was prevalent, from the first Dawn of Letters, about the Age of the Reformation, till long

Misc. 3. long afterwards. Witness the best written Discourses, the admir'd Speeches, Orations, or Sermons, thro' several Reigns, down to these latter, which we compute within the present Age. 'Twill undoubtedly be found, That till very late days, the Fashion of speaking, and the Turn of Wit, was after the *figurative* and *florid* Manner. Nothing was so acceptable as the high-sounding Phrase, the far-fetch'd Comparison, the capricious Point, and Play of Words ; and nothing so despicable as what was merely of the plain or natural kind. So that it must either be confess'd, that in respect of the preceding Age, we are fallen very low in T A S T E ; or that, if we are in reality improv'd, the *natural* and *simple* Manner which *conceals* and *covers* A R T, is the most truly *artful*, and of the genteelst, truest, and best-study'd Taste : as has \* above been treated more at large,

NOW, THEREFORE, as to our Author's P H I L O S O P H Y it-self, as it lies conceal'd in † *this* Treatise, but more profess'd and formal in his † *next* ; we shall proceed gradually according to his own Method : since it becomes not one who

\* Page 21. and VOL. I. pag. 257, 258.

† Viz. *Soliloquy*, or *Advice to an Author*: Treatise III, VOL. I.

‡ Viz. INQUIRY, &c. Treatise IV. VOL. II.

has

has undertaken the part of his airy Assif-Ch. i. tant and humorous *Paraphraſt*, to enter sud-  denly, without good preparation, into his *dry Reasonings* and *moral Researches* about the *social Passions* and *natural Affections*, of which he is such a punctilioſus *Examiner*.

OF all human Affections, the nobleſt and moſt becoming human Nature, is that of LOVE to one's Country. This, perhaps, will eaſily be allow'd by all Men, who have *really* a COUNTRY, and are of the number of those who may be call'd \* A PEOPLE, as enjoying the Happineſs of a real Constitution and Polity, by which they are *free* and *independent*. There are few ſuch Country-men or Free-men ſo degenerate, as *directly* to discountenance or condemn this Paſſion of Love to their Community and national Brotherhood. The *indirect* Manner of oppoſing this Principle, is the moſt uſual. We hear it commonly, as a Complaint, "That there is little of " this LOVE extant in the World." From whence 'tis haſtily concluded, "That there " is little or nothing of friendly or social

\* A Multitude held together by Force, tho under one and the fame Head, is not properly united: Nor does ſuch a Body make *a People*. 'Tis the ſocial Ligue, Confederacy, and mutual Consent, founded in ſome common Good or Interest, which joins the Members of a Community, and makes a People ONE. Absolute Power annuls the Publick: And where there is no Publick, or *Conſtitution*, there is in reality no Mother-COUNTRY, or NATION. See V O L. I. pag. 105, 6, 7.

Misc. 3. "Affection inherent in our *Nature*, or proper to our *Species*." 'Tis however apparent, That there is scarce a Creature of human Kind, who is not possess'd at least with some inferior degree or meaner sort of this *natural Affection to a Country*.

\* *Nescio quā Natale Solum dulcedine captos  
Dicit.* —

'Tis a wretched Aspect of Humanity which we figure to our-selves, when we wou'd endeavour to resolve the very Essence and Foundation of this generous Passion into a Relation to mere Clay and Dust, exclusively of any thing *sensible*, *intelligent*, or *moral*. 'Tis, I must own, on certain Relations, or respective Proportions, that all natural Affection does in some measure depend. And in this View it cannot, I confess, be deny'd, that we have each of us a certain Relation to the mere *Earth* it-self, the very Mould or Surface of that *Planet*, in which, with other Animals of various sorts, We (poor Reptiles!) were also bred and nourish'd. But had it happen'd to one of us *British-Men* to have been born at *Sea*, cou'd we not therefore properly be call'd *British-Men*? Cou'd we be allow'd *Country-Men* of no sort, as having no dis-

\* Ovid. Pont. Lib. i. Eleg. iii. ver. 35.

† Τὰ Καθίκοντα ταῦς χίσται ἀρχεῖσθαι.

tinct relation to any certain *Soil* or *Re-Ch. i.* *gion*; no original Neighbourhood but with ~~the~~ the watry Inhabitants and Sea-Monsters? Surely, if we were born of *lawful* Parents, *lawfully* employ'd, and under the Protection of *Law*; wherever they might be then detain'd, to whatever Colonys sent, or whithersoever driven by any Accident, or in Expeditions or Adventures in the Publick Service, or that of Mankind, we shou'd still find we had *a Home*, and *Country*, ready to lay claim to us. We shou'd be oblig'd still to consider our-selves as *Fellow-Citizens*, and might be allow'd to love our *Country* or *Nation* as honestly and heartily as the most inland Inhabitant or Native of the *Soil*. Our *political* and *social* Capacity wou'd undoubtedly come in view, and be acknowledg'd full as natural and essential in our Species, as the *parental* and *filial* kind, which gives rise to what we peculiarly call *natural Affection*. Or supposing that both our Birth and Parents had been unknown, and that in this respect we were in a manner younger Brothers in Society to the rest of Mankind; yet from our Nurture and Education we shou'd surely espouse some *Country* or other; and joyfully embracing the Protection of a Magistracy, shou'd of necessity and by force of Nature join our-selves to the general Society of Mankind, and those in particular, with whom we had enter'd into a

nearer

Misc. 3. nearer Communication of Benefits, and  
 closer Sympathy of Affections. It may therefore be esteem'd no better than a mean Subterfuge of narrow Minds, to assign this *natural Passion* for Society and a *Country*, to such a Relation as that of a mere *Fungus* or common *Excrecence*, to its *Parent-Mould*, or nursing *Dung-hill*.

THE RELATION of *Country-man*, if it be allow'd any thing at all, must imply something *moral* and *social*. The Notion it-self pre-supposes a naturally *civil* and *political* State of Mankind, and has reference to that particular part of Society, to which we owe our chief Advantages as *Men*, and rational Creatures, such as are \* *naturally* and *necessarily* united for each other's Happiness and Support, and for the highest of all Happinesses and Enjoyments ; " The " Intercourse of *Minds*, the free Use of " our *Reason*, and the Exercise of mutual " Love and *Friendship*."

AN ingenious Physician among the Moderns, having in view the natural Dependency of the *vegetable* and *animal* Kinds on their *common Mother-EARTH*, and observing that both the one and the other draw from her their continual Sustenance, (some rooted and fix'd down to their first

\* VOL. I. p. 109, &c. and VOL. II. p. 310, &c.

abodes, others unconfin'd, and wandring Ch. I.  
from place to place to suck their Nourish-ment:) He accordingly, as I remember,  
styles this latter animal-Race, *her releas'd  
Sons; Filios Terræ emancipatos.* Now if this  
be our only way of reckoning for Mankind,  
we may call our-selves indeed, *The Sons  
of EARTH, at large;* but not of *any par-  
ticular SOIL, or District.* The Division of  
Climates and Regions is fantastick and ar-  
tificial: much more the Limits of particular  
Countrys, Citys or Provinces. Our *Natale  
Solum,* or Mother-Earth, must by this ac-  
count be the *real GLOBE* it-self which bears  
us, and in respect of which we must allow  
the common *Animals*, and even the *Plants*  
of all degrees, to claim an equal *Brother-  
hood* with us, under this common PARENT.

ACCORDING to this Calculation we  
must of necessity carry our *Relation* as far  
as to the whole material World or Uni-  
verse; where alone it can prove compleat.  
But for the particular District or Tract of  
Earth, which in a vulgar sence we call *our  
COUNTRY*, however bounded or geo-  
graphically divided, we can never, at this  
rate, frame any accountable *Relation* to it,  
nor consequently assign any *natural* or *pro-  
per Affection* towards it.

IF unhappily a Man had been born ei-  
ther at an *Inn*, or in some dirty *Village*; he  
I wou'd

Misc. 3. wou'd hardly, I think, circumscribe himself so narrowly as to accept a Denomination or *Character* from those nearest Appendices, or local Circumstances of his Nativity. So far shou'd one be from making the *Hamlet* or *Parish* to be characteristical in the Case, that hardly wou'd the *Shire* it-self, or *County*, however rich or flourishing, be taken into the honorary Term or Appellation of *one's COUNTRY*.

" What, then, shall we presume to call  
 " *our COUNTRY*? Is it ENGLAND it-  
 " self? But what of SCOTLAND?  
 " Is it therefore BRITAIN? But  
 " what of *the other Islands*, the Northern  
 " ORCADES, and the Southern JERSEY  
 " and GUERNSEY? What of the *Plan-*  
 " *tations*, and poor IRELAND?" — Behold, here, a very dubious Circumscription!

BUT what, after all, if there be a *Conquest* or *Captivity in the case*? a *Migration*? a national *Secession*, or *Abandonment* of our native Seats for some other Soil or Climate? This has happen'd, we know, to our Forefathers. And as great and powerful a People as we have been of late, and have ever shewn our-selves under the influence of *free Councils*, and a tolerable *Ministry*; shou'd we relapse again into slavish Principles, or be *administer'd* long under such Heads as having

no Thought of Liberty for themselves, can Ch. 1.  
have much less for EUROPE or their Neigh- ~~bours~~  
bours; we may at last feel a War at home,  
become the *Seat* of it, and in the end *a Conquest*. We might then gladly embrace  
the hard Condition of our Predecessors, and  
exchange our beloved native *Soil* for that of  
some remote and uninhabited part of the  
World. Now shou'd this possibly be our  
Fate; shou'd some considerable Colony or  
Body be form'd afterwards out of our Re-  
mains, or meet, as it were by Miracle, in  
some distant Climate; wou'd there be, for  
the future, no *English-man* remaining? No  
common Bond of Alliance and Friendship,  
by which we cou'd still call *Country-men*,  
as before? How came we, I pray, by our  
antient name of *English-men*? Did it not  
travel with us over *Land* and *Sea*? Did  
we not, indeed, bring it with us heretofore  
from as far as the remoter Parts of GERM-  
ANY to this Island?

I MUST confess, I have been apt  
sometimes to be very angry with our Lan-  
guage, for having deny'd us the use of the  
word PATRIA, and afforded us no other  
name to expres our native *Community*,  
than that of *Country*; which already bore  
\* two different Significations, abstracted

\* *Rus & Regio.* In French *Campagne & País.*

Misc. 3. from Mankind or Society. Reigning words  
are many times of such force, as to influence us considerably in our Apprehension of things. Whether it be from any such Cause as this, I know not : but certain it is, that in the Idea of a CIVIL State or NATION, we *English-men* are apt to mix somewhat more than ordinary gross and earthy. No People who ow'd so much to A CONSTITUTION, and so little to A SOIL or CLIMATE, were ever known so indifferent towards one, and so passionately fond of *the other*. One wou'd imagine from the common Discourse of our *Country-men*, that the finest Lands near the EUPHRATES, the BABYLONIAN or PERSIAN *Paradieses*, the rich Plains of EGYPT, the Grecian TEMPE, the Roman CAMPANIA, LOMBARDY, PROVENCE, the Spanish ANDALUSIA, or the most delicious Tracts in the Eastern or Western INDIES, were contemptible Countrys in respect of OLD ENGLAND.

Now by the good leave of these worthy *Patriots of the Soil*, I must take the liberty to say, I think OLD ENGLAND to have been in every respect a very indifferent Country : and that Late ENGLAND, of an Age or two old, even since Queen Bess's days, is indeed very much mended for the better. We were, in the beginning of her Grandfather's Reign, under

der a sort of *Polish* Nobility ; and had no Ch. i. other Liberties, than what were in common to us with the then fashionable Monarchys and *Gothick* Lordships of EUROPE. For *Religion*, indeed, we were highly fam'd, above all Nations ; by being the most subject to our *Ecclesiasticks* at home, and the best Tributarys and Servants to the *Holy See* abroad.

I MUST go further yet, and own, that I think *Late ENGLAND*, since the *Revolution*, to be better still than *Old ENGLAND*, by many degrees ; and that, in the main, we make somewhat a better Figure in EUROPE, than we did a few Reigns before. But however our People may of late have flourish'd, our Name, or Credit have risen ; our Trade, and Navigation, our Manufactures, or our Husbandry been improv'd ; 'tis certain that our *Region*, *Climate*, and *Soil*, is, in its own nature, still one and the same. And to whatever Politeness we may suppose ourselves already arriv'd ; we must confess, that we are the *latest barbarous*, the *last civiliz'd* or *polish'd* People of EUROPE. We must allow that our first Conquest by the ROMANS brought us out of a State hardly equal to the *Indian Tribes* ; and that our last Conquest by the NORMANS brought us only into the capacity of receiving Arts and civil Accomplishments

Misc. 3. from *abroad*. They came to us by degrees, from remote distances, at second or third hand; from other Courts, States, Academys, and foreign Nurserys of Wit and Manners.

NOTWITHSTANDING this, we have as over-weaning an Opinion of our-selves, as if we had a claim to be *Original* and *Earth-born*. As oft as we have chang'd Masters, and mix'd Races with our several successive Conquerors, we still pretend to be as *legitimate* and *genuine* Possessors of *our Soil*, as the antient ATHENIANS accounted themselves to have been of *theirs*. 'Tis remarkable however in that truly antient, wise, and witty People, That as fine Territorys and noble Countrys as they possess'd, as indisputable Masters and Superiors as they were in all Science, Wit, Politeness, and Manners; they were yet so far from a conceited, selfish, and ridiculous Contempt of others, that they were even, in a contrary Extreme, "Admirers " of whatever was in the least degree in- " genious or curious in *foreign Nations*." Their Great Men were constant *Travellers*. Their Legislators and Philosophers made their Voyages into EGYPT, pass'd into CHALDEA, and PERSIA; and fail'd not to visit most of the dispers'd Grecian Governments and Colonys thro' the Islands of the ÆGEAN, in ITALY, and on the Coasts

Coasts of ASIA and AFRICA. 'Twas Ch. i.  
mention'd as a Prodigy, in the case of a ~~wave~~  
great Philosopher, tho known to have been  
always poor; "That he shou'd never have  
"travel'd, nor had ever gone out of  
"ATHENS for his Improvement." How  
modest a Reflection in those who were  
*themselves ATHENIANS!*

FOR our part, we neither care that  
\* *Foreigners* shou'd travel to us, nor any  
of ours shou'd travel into *foreign Countrys*. Our best Policy and Breeding is, it  
seems,

\* An ill Token of our being thorowly civiliz'd: since in  
the Judgment of the Polite and Wise, this inhospitable Disposi-  
tion was ever reckon'd among the principal Marks of *Bar-  
barism*. So STRABO, from other preceding Authors, *κοι-  
νῶν μὲν εἶναι τοῖς βαρβάροις πᾶσιν ἔθος τὸν ΞΕΝΗΛΑ-  
ΣΙΑΝ*, L. xvii. p. 802.

The ΖΕΥΣ Ξένιος of the Antients was one of the solemn  
*Character's* of Divinity: the peculiar *Attribute* of the su-  
preme DEITY, benign to Mankind, and recommending  
universal Love, mutual Kindness, and Benignity bētween the  
remotest and most unlike of human Race. Thus their Divine  
Poet in Harmony with their Sacred Oracles, which were  
known frequently to confirm this Doctrine.

Ξεῖν', καὶ μοι θέμις ἔστι, καὶ εἰ κακίων σέθεν ἔλθοι,  
Ξείνον ἀτιμῆσαι πρὸς γὰρ Διός εἰσιν ἄπαντες  
Ξείνοι——————ΟΔΤΣ. ξ.

Again,

Οὐδέ πε. ἀμμι βερῶν ἐπιμίγνειαι ἀλλο·  
Ἄλλ' οὐδε πε δύστηνθ ἀλώμενθ ἐνθάδ' ἵστηνε,  
Τὸν νῦν χρὴ κομίσειν πρὸς γὰρ Διός εἰσιν ὅπαντες  
Ξείνοι——————ΟΔΤΣ. ζ.

And again,

Αρνεῖσθ βίστοιο, φίλοις δὲ τοῖς αὐθεόποιοι·  
Πάντας γὰρ φιλέσσουεν, οὐδὲ τέποντα γνώσεν.

ΙΛΙΑΔ. ζ.

Misc. 3. seems, " To look abroad as little as possible ; contract our Views within the narrowest Compafs ; and despise all Knowledge, Learning, or Manners, which are not of a *Home Growth.*" For hardly will the *Antients* themselves be regarded by those, who have so resolute a Contempt of what the politest *Moderns* of any Nation, besides their own, may have advanc'd in the way of *Literature, Politeness, or PHILOSOPHY.*

THIS Disposition of our *Country-men*, from whatever Causes it may possibly be deriv'd, is, I fear, a very prepossessing Circumstance against our Author ; whose Design is to advance something *new*, or at least something *different* from what is commonly current in **PHILOSOPHY** and **MORALS**. To support this Design of his, he seems intent chiefly on this fingle Point ; " To discover, how we may, to best advantage, form within our-selves what in the polite World is call'd a *Refinement*, or *Good TASTE.*"

See also Odys. lib. iii. ver. 34, &c. and 67, &c. lib. iv. ver. 30, &c. and 60.

Such was antient *Heathen CHARITY*, and pious Duty towards *the Whole* of Mankind ; both thofe of different *Nations*, and different *Worships*. See VOL. II. pag. 165, 166.

HE begins, it's true, as near *home* as possible, and sends us to the narrowest of all Conversations, that of *SOLILOQUY* or *Self-discourse*. But this Correspondence, according to his Computation, is wholly impracticable, without a previous Commerce with the World: And the larger this Commerce is, the more practicable and improving the other, he thinks, is likely to prove. The Sources of this improving Art of *Self-correspondence* he derives from the highest Politeness and Elegance of antient *Dialogue*, and *Debate*, in matters of Wit, Knowledg, and Ingenuity. And nothing, according to our Author, can so well revive this *self-corresponding* Practice, as the same Search and Study of the highest Politeness in modern *Conversation*. For this, we must necessarily be at the pains of going further abroad than the Province we call *HOME*. And, by this Account, it appears that our Author has little hopes of being either relish'd or comprehended by any other of his Country-men, than those who delight in the open and *free* Commerce of the World, and are rejoic'd to gather Views, and receive Light from every *Quarter*; in order to judg the best of what is perfect, and according to a just *Standard*, and true *TASTE* in every kind.

Misc. 3.

IT may be proper for us to remark in favour of our Author, that the sort of *Ridicule* or *Raillery*, which is apt to fall upon **PHILOSOPHERS**, is of the same kind with that which falls commonly on the **VIRTUOSI**, or refin'd *Wits* of the Age. In this latter general Denomination we include the real *fine Gentlemen*, the Lovers of *Art* and *Ingenuity*; such as have seen *the World*, and inform'd themselves of the *Manners* and *Customs* of the several Nations of **EUROPE**, search'd into their *Antiquitys*, and *Records*; consider'd their *Police*, *Laws*, and *Constitutions*; observ'd the Situation, Strength, and Ornaments of their *Citys*, their principal *Arts*, *Studys*, and *Amusements*; their *Architecture*, *Sculpture*, *Painting*, *Musick*, and their Taste in *Poetry*, *Learning*, *Language*, and *Conversation*.

HITHERTO there can lie no *Ridicule*, nor the least Scope for *Satirick Wit* or *Raillery*. But when we push this *Virtuoso-CHARACTER* a little further, and lead our polish'd Gentleman into more nice Researches; when from the view of *Mankind* and their Affairs, our speculative Genius, and minute Examiner of Nature's Works, proceeds with equal or perhaps superior Zeal in the Contemplation of the *Infect-Life*, the *Conveniencys*, I *Habitations*

bitations and Oconomy of a Race of Ch. 1.  
*Shell-Fish*; when he has erected a Cabinet ~~~~  
in due form, and made it the real Pattern  
of his Mind, replete with the same Trash  
and Trumpery of correspondent empty  
Notions, and chimerical Conceits; he then  
indeed becomes the Subject of sufficient  
*Raillery*, and is made the *Jest* of common  
Conversations.

A ~~worse~~ thing than this happens  
commonly to these *inferior Virtuosi*.  
In seeking so earnestly for *Raritys*, they  
fall in love with *RARITY* for *Rareness-*  
*sake*. Now the greatest *Raritys* in the  
World are *MONSTERS*. So that the  
*Study* and *Relish* of these Gentlemen, thus  
assiduously employ'd, becomes at last in  
reality *monstrous*: And their whole De-  
light is found to consist in selecting and  
contemplating whatever is most *monstrous*,  
disagreeing, out of the way, and to the  
least purpose of any thing in Nature.

IN PHILOSOPHY, Matters answer ex-  
actly to this *Virtuoso-Scheme*. Let us sup-  
pose a Man, who having this Resolution  
merely, how to employ his Understanding  
to the best purpose, considers “ *Who* or  
“ *What* he is; *Whence* he arose, or had  
“ his Being; to what *End* he was design'd;  
“ and to what Course of Action he is by  
“ his natural Frame and Constitution de-  
“ stin'd:”

Misc. 3. "stn'd :" shou'd he *descend* on this account into himself, and examine his inward Powers and Faculty's ; or shou'd he *ascend* beyond his own immediate Species, City, or Community, to discover and recognize his *higher Polity*, or *Community*, (that *common* and *universal-one*, of which he is born a *Member*;) nothing, surely, of this kind, cou'd reasonably draw upon him the least Contempt or Mockery. On the contrary, *the finest Gentleman* must after all be consider'd but as an *IDIOT*, who talking much of the knowledg of *the World* and *Mankind*, has never so much as thought of the Study or Knowledg of *himself*, or of the Nature and Government of that *real Publick and WORLD*, from whence he holds his *Being*.

\* *Quid sumus, & quidnam victuri gig-nimur?* —

" *Where are we? Under what Roof? Or on board what Vessel? Whither bound?*  
 " *On what Business? Under whose Pilot-ship, Government, or Protection?*" are Questions which every sensible Man wou'd naturally ask, if he were on a sudden transported into a new Scene of Life. 'Tis admirable, indeed, to consider, That a Man shou'd have been long come into a

\* Perf. Sat. iii. ver. 67,

World, carry'd his Reason and Sense a-Ch. i.  
bout with him, and yet have never se-ww  
riously ask'd himself this single Question,  
“ WHERE am I? or WHAT?” but, on  
the contrary, shou'd proceed regularly to  
every other Study and Inquiry, postponing  
*this* alone, as the least considerable; or  
leaving the Examination of it to *others*,  
commission'd, as he supposes, to under-  
stand and think for him, upon this Head.  
To be bubbled, or put upon by any  
sham-Advices in this Affair, is, it seems,  
of no consequence! We take care to ex-  
amine accurately, by our own Judgment,  
the Affairs of *other* People, and the Con-  
cerns of the World which least belong to  
us: But what relates more immediately  
to *our-selves*, and is our chief SELF-Inter-  
est, we charitably leave to *others* to  
examine for us, and readily take up with  
the first Comers; on whose Honesty and  
good Faith 'tis presum'd we may safely  
rely.

HERE, methinks, the *Ridicule* turns  
more against the *Philosophy-Haters* than  
the *Virtuous* or *Philosophers*. Whilst PHI-  
LOSOPHY is taken (as in its prime Sense it  
ought) for *Mastership in LIFE and MANNERS*, 'tis like to make no ill Figure in  
the World, whatever Impertinencys may  
reign, or however extravagant the Times  
may prove. But let us view PHILOSO-  
PHY,

Misc. 3. *PH Y*, like mere *Virtuoso-ship*, in its usual  
 Career, and we shall find the *Ridicule* ri-  
 sing full as strongly against the Professors  
 of the higher as the lower kind. *Cockle-  
 shell* abounds with each. Many things ex-  
 terior, and without our-selves, of no re-  
 lation to our real Interests or to those of  
 Society and Mankind, are diligently in-  
 vestigated: Nature's remotest Operations,  
 deepest Mysterys, and most difficult *Phæno-  
 mena* discuss'd, and whimsically explain'd;  
*Hypotheses* and *fantastick Systems* erected; a  
 Universe anatomiz'd; and by some \* nota-  
 ble Scheme so solv'd and reduc'd, as to ap-  
 pear an easy *Knack* or *Secret* to those who  
 have the *Clew*. *Creation* it-self can, upon  
 occasion, be exhibited; *Transmutations*,  
*Projections*, and other *Philosophical AR-  
 CANA*, such as in the *corporeal World* can  
 accomplish all things; whilst in the *intel-  
 lectual*, a set Frame of metaphysical Phrases  
 and Distinctions can serve to solve what-  
 ever Difficultys may be propounded either  
 in *Logicks*, *Ethicks*, or any *real Science*,  
 of whatever kind.

IT appears from hence, that the De-  
 fects of *PH ILOSOPHY*, and those of *Vir-  
 tuoso-ship* are of the same nature. Nothing  
 can be more dangerous than a wrong  
*Choice*, or *Misapplication* in these Affairs.

\* VOL. II. pag. 184, 190.

But

But as ridiculous as these Studys are ren-Ch. 1.  
der'd by their sensless Managers ; it ap-~~~~~  
pears, however, that each of 'em are, in  
their nature, essential to the *Character* of  
a *Fine Gentleman and Man of Sense.*

To *philosophize*, in a just Signification,  
is but to carry *Good-breeding* a step higher.  
For the Accomplishment of Breeding is,  
To learn whatever is *decent* in Company,  
or *beautiful* in Arts ; and the Sum of Phi-  
losophy is, To learn what is *just* in So-  
ciety, and *beautiful* in Nature, and the  
Order of the World.

'Tis not *Wit* merely, but a *Temper*  
which must form the WELL-BRED MAN.  
In the same manner, 'tis not *a Head* mere-  
ly, but *a Heart* and *Resolution* which must  
compleat the real PHILOSOPHER. Both  
*Characters* aim at what is *excellent*, aspire  
to *a just Taste*, and carry in view the Mo-  
del of what is *beautiful* and *becoming*.  
Accordingly, the respective Conduct and  
distinct Manners of each Party are regu-  
lated ; *The one* according to the perfectest  
Ease, and good Entertainment of COMPANY ; *the other* according to the strictest  
Interest of MANKIND and SOCIETY :  
*The one* according to a Man's Rank and  
Quality in his private Nation ; *the other*  
according to his Rank and Dignity in N A-  
T U R E.

W H E-

Misc. 3.

WHETHER each of these Offices, or social Parts, are in themselves as *convenient* as *becoming*, is the great Question which must some-way be decided. The WELL-BRED MAN has already decided this, in his own Case, and declar'd on the side of what is Handsom: For whatever he practises in this kind \*, he accounts no more than what he owes purely to himself; without regard to any further Advantage. The *Pretender to PHILOSOPHY*, who either knows not how to determine this Affair, or if he has determin'd, knows not how to pursue his Point, with Constancy, and Firmness, remains in respect of *Philosophy*, what a Clown or Coxcomb is in respect of *Breeding* and *Behaviour*. Thus, according to our Author, the TASTE of Beauty, and the Relish of what is decent, just, and amiable, perfects the Character of the GENTLEMAN, and the PHILOSOPHER. And the Study of such a TASTE or Relish will, as we suppose, be ever the great Employment and Concern of him, who covets as well to be *wise* and *good*, as *agreeable* and *polite*.

† *Quid VERUM atque DECENS, curo,  
& rogo, & omnis in hoc sum.*

\* VOL. I. pag. 129, 130.

† Horat. lib. i. Ep. 1. ver. 11.

## C H A P. II.

*Explanation of a TASTE continu'd.*

— *Ridiculers of it.* — *Their Wit, and Sincerity.* — *Application of the Taste to Affairs of Government and Politicks.* — *Imaginary CHARACTERS in the State.* — *Young Nobility, and Gentry.* — *Pursuit of BEAUTY.* — *Preparation for Philosophy.*

BY this time, surely, I must have prov'd my-self sufficiently engag'd in the Project and Design of our *Self-discourfing AUTHOR*, whose Defence I have undertaken. His Pretension, as plainly appears in this third Treatise, is to \* recommend MORALS on the same foot, with what in a lower fense is call'd *Manners*; and to advance PHILOSOPHY (as harsh a Subject as it may appear) on the very Foundation of what is call'd *agreeable* and *polite*. And 'tis in this Method and Management that, as his Interpreter, or Paraphraſt, I have propos'd to imi-

\* VOL. I. pag. 336, &c.

tate

Misc. 3. tate and accompany him, as far as my  
~~~~ *Miscellaneous CHARACTER* will permit.

OUR joint Endeavour, therefore, must appear this: To shew, \* "That nothing which is found charming or delightful in the polite World, nothing which is adopted as Pleasure, or Entertainment, of whatever kind, can any way be accounted for, supported, or establish'd, without the Pre-establishment or Supposition of *a certain TASTE*." Now a TASTE or Judgment, 'tis suppos'd, can hardly come ready form'd with us into the World. Whatever Principles or Materials of this kind we may possibly bring with us; whatever good Faculty's, Senses, or anticipating Sensations, and Imaginations, may be of Nature's Growth, and arise properly, of themselves, without our Art, Promotion, or Assistance; the general Idea which is form'd of all this Management, and the clear Notion we attain of what is preferable and principal in all these Subjects of Choice and Estimation, will not, as I imagine, by any Person, be taken for *in-nate*. Use, Practice and Culture must precede the *Understanding* and *Wit* of such an advanc'd Size and Growth as this. A legitimate and just TASTE can neither be begotten, made, conceiv'd,

\* VOL. I. pag. 336, &c.

or produc'd, without the antecedent *La-Ch. 2. labour* and *Pains* of CRITICISM.



FOR this reason we presume not only to defend the Cause of CRITICKS; but to declare open War against those indolent supine *Authors*, *Performers*, *Readers*, *Auditors*, *Actors*, or *Spectators*; who making their HUMOUR alone the Rule of what is *beautiful* and *agreeable*, and having no account to give of such their HUMOUR or odd FANCY, reject the *criticizing* or *examining Art*, by which alone they are able to discover the *true BEAUTY* and *WORTH* of every Object.

ACCORDING to that affected *Ridicule* which these insipid Remarkers pretend to throw upon just CRITICKS, the Enjoyment of all real Arts or natural Beautys wou'd be intirely lost: Even in Behaviour and Manners, we shou'd at this rate become in time as barbarous, as in our Pleasures and Diversions. I wou'd presume it, however, of these *Critick-Haters*, that they are not yet so unciviliz'd, or void of all social Sense, as to maintain, " That the " most barbarous Life, or brutish Pleasure, " is as desirable as the most polish'd or re- " fin'd."

FOR my own part, when I have sometimes heard Men of reputed Ability join in  
Vol. 3. M with

Misc. 3. with that effeminate plaintive Tone of  
 ~~~~~ *Invective* against CRITICKS, I have re-  
 ally thought they had it in their Fancy, to  
 keep down the growing Genius's of the  
 Youth, their Rivals, by turning them a-  
 side from that *Examination* and *Search*,  
 on which all good Performance as well as  
 good Judgment depends. I have seen ma-  
 ny a time a well-bred Man, who had him-  
 self a real *good TASTE*, give way, with  
 a malicious Complaisance, to the Humour  
 of a Company, where, in favour chiefly of  
 the tender Sex, this soft languishing Con-  
 tempt of *Criticks*, and their Labours, has  
 been the Subject set a-foot. "Wretch-  
 ed Creatures! (says one) impertinent  
 Things, these *Criticks*, as ye call 'em!  
 — As if one cou'dn't know what was  
 agreeable or pretty, without their help.  
 — 'Tis fine indeed, that one shou'dn't  
 be allow'd to fansy for one's-self.—  
 Now shou'd a thousand Criticks tell me  
 that Mr. A——'s new *Play* wan't the  
 wittiest in the World, I wou'dn't mind  
 'em one bit."

THIS our real Man of Wit hears pa-  
 tiently; and adds, perhaps of his own,  
 "That he thinks it, truly, somewhat  
 hard, in what relates to People's Diver-  
 sion and Entertainment, that they shou'd  
 be oblig'd to chuse what pleas'd others,  
 and not *themselves.*" Soon after this  
 he

he goes himself to the *Play*, finds one of his effeminate Companions commanding or admiring at a wrong place. He turns to the next Person who sits by him, and asks privately, “*What he thinks of his Companion's Relish.*”

SUCH is the Malice of the World ! They who by Pains and Industry have acquir'd a *real TASTE* in Arts, rejoice in their Advantage over others, who have either none at all, or such as renders 'em ridiculous. At an *Auction* of Books, or Pictures, you shall hear these Gentlemen persuading every one “*To bid for what he fansys.*” But, at the same time, they wou'd be soundly mortify'd themselves, if by such as they esteem'd good Judges, they shou'd be found to have purchas'd by a *wrong Fancy*, or *ill TASTE*. The same Gentleman who commends his Neighbour for ordering his Garden or Apartment, *as his HUMOUR* leads him, takes care his own shou'd be so order'd *as the best Judgments wou'd advise*. Being once a Judg himself, or but tolerably knowing in these Affairs, his Aim is not “*To change the Being of Things, and bring TRUTH and NATURE to his HUMOUR :*” but, leaving NATURE and TRUTH just as he found 'em, to accommodate his *Humour* and *Fancy* to *their STANDARD.*” Wou'd he do this

Misc. 3. in a yet higher Case, he might in reality  
become as wise and great a Man, as he is  
already a *refin'd and polis'h'd GENTLE-*  
*MAN.* By *one* of these TASTES he un-  
derstands how to lay out his Garden, mo-  
del his House, fansy his Equipage, ap-  
point his Table: By *the other* he learns of  
what Value these Amusements are in Life,  
and of what Importance to a Man's Free-  
dom, Happiness, and Self-enjoyment. For  
if he wou'd try effectually to acquire the  
real Science or TASTE of *Life*; he wou'd  
certainly discover, "That a RIGHT  
" MIND, and GENEROUS AFFECTION,  
" had more Beauty and Charm, than all  
" other Symmetrys in the World besides:"  
And, "That a Grain of *Honesty* and na-  
" tive Worth, was of more value than  
" all the adventitious Ornaments, Estates,  
" or Preferments; for the sake of which  
" some of the better sort so oft turn  
" Knaves; forsaking their Principles, and  
" quitting their Honour and Freedom, for  
" a mean, timorous, shifting State of gau-  
" dy Servitude."

A LITTLE better TASTE (were it  
a *very little*) in the Affair of *Life it-*  
*self,* wou'd, if I mistake not, mend the  
Manners, and secure the Happiness of  
some of our noble Countrymen, who come  
with high Advantage and a worthy Cha-  
racter

raetor into the Publick. But ere they Ch. 2.  
have long engag'd in it, their WORTH ~~is~~  
unhappily becomes venal. *Equipages, Titles,*  
*Precedencys, Staffs, Ribbons,* and o-  
ther such glittering *Ware*, are taken in ex-  
change for *inward MERIT, HONOUR,*  
and a *CHARACTER.*

THIS they may account perhaps *a shreud Bargain.* But there will be found very untoward Abatements in it, when the matter comes to be experienc'd. They may have descended in reality from ever so glorious Ancestors, Patriots, and Sufferers for their Country's Liberty and Welfare : They may have made their Entrance into the World upon this bottom of anticipated Fame and Honour : They may have been advanc'd on this account to Dignitys, which they were thought to have deserv'd. But when induc'd to change their honest Measures, and sacrifice their *Cause* and *Friends* to an *imaginary private Interest* ; they will soon find, by Experience, that they have lost the Relish and *TASTE* of *Life* ; and for insipid wretched *Honours*, of a deceitful kind, have unhappily exchang'd an amiable and sweet *Honour*, of a sincere and lasting Relish, and good Savour. They may, after this, act *Farces*, as they think fit ; and hear Qualitys and Virtues assign'd to 'em, under the Titles of *Graces, Excellencys, Honours,*

Misc. 3. *nours*, and the rest of this mock-Praise and mimical Appellation. They may even with serious Looks be told of *Honour* and *Worth*, *their Principle*, and *their Country*: But they know better within themselves; and have occasion to find, That, after all, the World too knows better; and that their few *Friends* and *Admirers* have either a very shallow Wit, or a very profound Hypocrisy.

"T IS not in *one* Party alone that these *Purchases* and *Sales* of *HONOUR* are carry'd on. I can represent to my-self a noted *PATRIOT*, and reputed *Pillar* of the religious Part of our Constitution, who having by many and long Services, and a steady Conduct, gain'd the Reputation of thorow Zeal with his own Party, and of Sincerity and Honour with his very Enemys, on a sudden (the time being come that the Fulness of his Reward was set before him) submits complacently to the propos'd Bargain, and sells himself for what he is worth, in a vile detestable Old-Age, to which he has reserv'd the Infamy of betraying both his *Friends* and *Country*.

I CAN imagine, on the other side, one of a contrary Party; a noted Friend to *LIBERTY* in *Church* and *State*; an Abhorrer of the slavish Dependency on *Courts*, and of the narrow Principles of *Bigots*: Such

Such a one, after many publick Services of Ch. 2. note, I can see wrought upon, by degrees, u u u to seek *Court-Preferment*; and this too under a *Patriot-Character*. But having perhaps try'd this way with less success, he is oblig'd to change his *Character*, and become *a royal Flatterer*, a Courtier *against his Nature*; submitting himself, and suing, in so much the meaner degree, as his inherent Principles are well known at Court, and to his new-adopted Party, to whom he feigns himself *a Proselyte*.

THE greater the *Genius* or *Character* is of such a Person, the greater is his Slavery, and heavier his Load. Better had it been that he had never discover'd such a Zeal for publick Good, or signaliz'd himself in *that Party*; which can with least grace make Sacrifices of national Interests to *a Crown*, or to the *private Will*, Appetite, or Pleasure of *a Prince*. For supposing such a *Genius* as this had been to act his Part of Courtship in some foreign and absolute Court; how much less infamous wou'd his Part have prov'd? How much less slavish, amidst a People who were *All Slaves*? Had he peradventure been one of that forlorn begging Troop of Gentry extant in DENMARK, or SWEDEN, since the time that those Nations lost their Liberties; had he liv'd out of a free Nation, and happily-balanc'd Constitution; had

Misc. 3. he been either conscious of no Talent in  
the Affairs of Government, or of no Opportunity to exert any such, to the advantage of Mankind : Where had been the mighty shame, if perhaps he had employ'd some of his Abilitys in flattering like others, and paying the necessary Homage requir'd for Safety's sake, and Self-preservation, in absolute and despotic Governments ? The T A S T E, perhaps, in strictness, might still be *wrong*, even in *this* hard Circumstance : But how *inexcusable* in *a quite contrary one !* For let us suppose our Courtier not only *an Englishman*, but of the Rank and Stem of those old *English* Patriots, who were wont to curb the Licentiousness of our Court, arraign its Flatterers, and purge away those Poisons from the Ear of Princes ; let us suppose him of a competent Fortune and moderate Appetites, without any apparent *Luxury* or *Lavishment* in his Manners : What shall we, after this, bring in Excuse, or as an Apology, for such a *Choice* as his ? How shall we explain this preposterous *Relish*, this odd Preference of *Subtlety* and *Indirectness*, to true *Wisdom*, open *Honesty*, and *Uprightness* ?

'Tis easier, I confess, to give account of this *Corruption of T A S T E* in some *noble Youth* of a more sumptuous gay Fancy ; supposing him born truly *Great*, and of

of honourable Descent ; with a generous free Ch. 2.  
MIND, as well as ample Fortune. Even ~~the~~ these Circumstances themselves may be the very Causes perhaps of his being thus ensnar'd. The \* Elegance of his Fancy in outward things, may have made him overlook the Worth of inward Character and Proportion : And the Love of Grandure and Magnificence, wrong turn'd, may have possess'd his Imagination over-strongly with such things as *Frontispieces*, *Parterres*, *Equipages*, trim *Valets in party-colour'd Clothes* ; and others in *Gentlemens Apparel*. — Magnanimous Exhibitions of Honour and Generosity ! — “ In Town, a Palace and suitable Furniture ! In the Country the same ; with the addition of such Edifices and Gardens as were unknown to our Ancestors, and are unnatural to such a Climate as GREAT BRITAIN ! ”

MEAN while the Year runs on ; but the Year's Income answers not its Expence. For “ Which of these Articles can be retrench'd ? Which way take up, after having thus set out ? ” A Princely Fancy has begot all this ; and a Princely Slavery, and Court-Dependence must maintain it.

\* VOL. I. pag. 139.

Misc. 3.

THE young Gentleman is now led into  
*a Chace*, in which he will have slender  
Capture, tho' Toil sufficient. He is him-  
self taken. Nor will he so easily get out  
of that Labyrinth, to which he chose to  
commit his steps, rather than to the more  
direct and plainer Paths in which he trod  
before. " Farewel that generous proud  
Spirit, which was wont to speak only  
what it approv'd, commend only whom  
it thought worthy, and act only what  
it thought right! Favourites must be  
now observ'd, little Engines of Power  
attended on, and loathsomly careſ'd:  
an honest Man dreaded, and every free  
Tongue or Pen abhor'd as dangerous  
and reproachful." For till our Gentle-  
man is become wholly prostitute and  
shameless; till he is brought to laugh at  
*publick Virtue*, and the very Notion of *com-*  
*mon Good*; till he has openly renounc'd all  
Principles of Honour and Honesty, he  
must in good Policy avoid those to whom  
he lies so much expos'd, and shun that  
Commerce and Familiarity which was  
once his chief Delight.

SUCH is the Sacrifice made to a wrong  
Pride, and ignorant Self-esteem; by one  
whose inward Character must necessarily,  
after this manner, become as mean and  
abject,

abject, as his outward Behaviour insolent Ch. 2.  
and intolerable.

THERE are another sort of *Suitors to Power*, and *Traffickers of inward WORTH and LIBERTY* for outward *Gain*, whom one wou'd be naturally drawn to compassionate. They are themselves of a humane, compassionate, and friendly nature, Well-wishers to their Country and Mankind. They cou'd, perhaps, even embrace *Poverty* contentedly, rather than submit to any thing diminutive either of their *inward Freedom* or *national Liberty*. But what they can bear in their own Persons, they cannot bring themselves to bear in the Persons of such as are to come after them. Here the *best* and *noblest* of Affections are borne down by the Excess of the *next best*, those of *Tenderness for Relations* and *near Friends*.

SUCH Captives as these wou'd disdain, however, to devote themselves to any Prince or Ministry, whose Ends were wholly tyrannical, and irreconcilable with the true Interest of their Nation. In other cases of a less Degeneracy, they may bow down perhaps *in the Temple of RIMMON*, support the Weight of their *supine LORDS*, and prop the Steps and ruining Credit of their *corrupt Patrons*.

THIS

Misc. 3.

THIS is Drudgery sufficient for such honest Natures ; such as by hard Fate alone cou'd have been made dishonest. But as for *Pride* or *Insolence* on the account of their outward Advancement and seeming Elevation ; they are so far from any thing resembling it, that one may often observe what is very contrary in these fairer *Characters* of Men. For tho' perhaps they were known somewhat *rigid* and *severe* before ; you see 'em now grown in reality *submissive* and *obliging*. Tho' in Conversation formerly *dogmatical* and *over-bearing*, on the Points of State and Government ; they are now the *patientest* to hear, the *least forward* to dictate, and the *readiest* to embrace any entertaining Subject of Discourse, rather than that of the *Publick*, and their own *personal Advancement*.

NOTHING is so near *Virtue* as this Behaviour ; and nothing so remote from it, nothing so sure a Token of the most profligate Manners, as the contrary. In a free Government, 'tis so much the Interest of every one *in Place*, who profits by the *Publick*, to demean himself with *Modesty* and *Submission* ; that to appear immediately the more insolent and haughty on such an Advancement, is the mark only of a contemptible Genius, and of a want of

true Understanding, even in the narrow Ch. 2.  
Sense of *Interest* and *private Good*.



THUS we see, after all, that 'tis not merely what we call *Principle*, but a *TASTE*, which governs Men. They may think for certain "This is *right*, or that *wrong*:" They may believe "This a "Crime, or that a *Sin*; This punishable "by *Man*, or that by *God*!" Yet if the *Savor* of things lies cross to *HONESTY*; if the *Fancy* be florid, and the *Appetite* high towards the subaltern Beautys and lower Order of worldly Symmetrys and Proportions; the Conduct will infallibly turn this latter way.

EVEN *Conscience*, I fear, such as is owing to religious Discipline, will make but a slight Figure, where this *TASTE* is set amiss. Among the Vulgar perhaps it may do wonders. A *Devil* and a *Hell* may prevail, where a *Jail* and *Gallows* are thought insufficient. But such is the Nature of the liberal, polish'd, and refin'd part of Mankind; so far are they from the mere Simplicity of Babes and Sucklings; that, instead of applying the Notion of a future Reward or Punishment to their immediate Behaviour in Society, they are apt, much rather, thro' the whole Course of their Lives, to shew evidently that they look on the pious Narrations to be indeed

Misc. 3. indeed no better than Childrens Tales, or  
 the Amusement of the mere Vulgar:

† *Effe aliquos Manes, & subterranea  
 regna,*  
 \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*  
*Nec pueri credunt, nisi qui nondum  
 ære lavantur.*

SOMETHING therefore shou'd, methinks, be further thought of, in behalf of our generous Youths, towards the correcting of their TASTE, or *Relish* in the Concerns of *Life*. For this at last is what will influence. And in this respect *the Youth* alone are to be regarded. Some hopes there may be still conceiv'd of *These*. The rest are confirm'd and harden'd in their way. A middle-ag'd Knave (however devout or orthodox) is but a common Wonder: An old-one is no Wonder at all: But a young-one is still (thank Heaven!) somewhat extraordinary. And I can never enough admire what was said once by a worthy Man at the first appearance of one of these young able Prostitutes, " That he even trembled at the sight, to " find Nature capable of being turn'd so " soon: and That he boded greater Ca- " lamity to his Country from this single " Example of *young Villany*, than from

† Juven. Sat. 2. ver. 149.

" the

" the Practices and Arts of all the old Ch. 2.  
" Knaves in being."



LET US therefore proceed in this view, addressing our-selves to the grown *Youth* of our polite World. Let the Appeal be to these, whose *Relish* is retrievable, and whose *Taste* may yet be form'd in *Morals*; as it seems to be, already, in *exterior Manners* and *Behaviour*.

THAT there is really A STANDARD of this latter kind, will immediately, and on the first view, be acknowledg'd. The Contest is only, " Which is right: —  
" Which the *un-affected* Carriage, and *just*  
" Demeanour: And Which the *affected*  
" and *false*." Scarce is there any-one, who pretends not to know and to decide What is *well-bred* and *handsom*. There are few so affectedly clownish, as absolutely to disown *Good-breeding*, and renounce the Notion of A BEAUTY in *outward Manners* and *Deportment*. With such as these, wherever they shou'd be found, I must confess, I cou'd scarce be tempted to bestow the least Pains or Labour, towards convincing 'em of a *Beauty* in *inward Sentiments* and *Principles*.

WHOMEVER has any Impression of what we call *Gentility* or *Politeness*, is already fo

Misc. 3. so acquainted with the DECORUM and  
 ~~ GRACE of things, that he will readily confess a Pleasure and Enjoyment in the very Survey and Contemplation of this kind. Now if in the way of polite Pleasure, *the Study and Love of BEAUTY* be essential; *the Study and Love of SYMMETRY* and ORDER, on which *Beauty* depends, must also be essential, in the same respect.

'Tis impossible we can advance the least in any *Relish* or *Taste* of outward Symmetry and Order; without acknowledging that the proportionate and regular State is the truly *prosperous* and natural in every Subject. The same Features which make Deformity, create Incommodeiousness and Disease. And the same Shapes and Proportions which make Beauty, afford Advantage, by adapting to Activity and Use. Even in the imitative or *designing* Arts, (to which our Author so often refers) the *Truth* or *Beauty* of every Figure or Statue is measur'd from the Perfection of Nature, in her just adapting of every Limb and Proportion to the Activity, Strength, Dexterity, Life and Vigor of the particular Species or Animal *design'd*.

THUS *Beauty* and \* *Truth* are plainly join'd with the Notion of *Utility* and

\* VOL. I. pag. 142, &c.

*Con-*

*Convenience*, even in the Apprehension of Ch. 2. every ingenious Artist, the \* Architect, ~~or~~ the *Statuary*, or the *Painter*. 'Tis the same in the *Physician's* way. Natural *Health* is the just Proportion, *Truth*, and regular Course of things, in a Constitution. 'Tis the *inward Beauty of the Body*. And when the Harmony and just Measures of the rising Pulses, the circulating Humours, and the moving Airs or Spirits are disturb'd or lost, *Deformity* enters, and with it, *Calamity* and *Ruin*.

SHOUD not this, one wou'd imagine, be still the same Case, and hold equally as to the MIND? Is there nothing there which tends to Disturbance and Dissolution? Is there no natural Tenour, Tone, or Order of the Passions or Affections? No *Beauty*, or *Deformity* in this moral kind?

\* In GRÆCIS Operibus, nemo sub mutulo denticulos constituit, &c. Quod ergo supra Cantherios & Templæ in Veritate debet esse collocatum, id in Imaginibus, si infrà constitutum fuerit, mendosam habebit operis rationem. Etiamque ANTIQUI non probaverunt, neque instituerunt, &c. Ita quod non potest in Veritate fieri, id non putaverunt in Imaginibus factum, posse certam rationem habere. Omnia enim certâ proprietate, & à veris NATURÆ deductis Moribus, traduxerunt in Operum perfectiones: & ea probaverunt quorum explicaciones in Disputationibus rationem posse habere VERITATIS. Itaque ex eis Originibus Symmetrias & Proportiones uniuscujusque generis constitutas reliquerunt. VITRUVIUS, lib. iv. cap. 2. whose Commentator PHILANDER may be also read on this place. See above, VOL. I. pag. 208, 336, &c. 340, 350, &c. And below, pag. 259, 260.

Misc. 3. Or allowing that there really is ; must it  
 ~~~~ not, of consequence, in the same manner  
 imply *Health* or *Sickliness*, *Prosperity* or  
*Disaster*? Will it not be found in this re-  
 spect, above all, “ That what is \* BEAU-  
 “ TIFUL

\* This is the HONESTUM, the PULCHRUM,  
 τὸ Καλὸν, on which our Author lays the stress of VIRTUE, and the Merits of this Cause ; as well in his other Treatises, as in this of *Soliloquy* here commented. This Beauty the ROMAN Orator, in his rhetorical way, and in the Majesty of Style, cou'd express no otherwise than as *A Mystery.* + “ HONESTUM igitur id intelligimus, quod  
 “ tale est, ut, detracta omni utilitate, sine ulla præmiis  
 “ fructibusve, per seipsum possit jure laudari. Quod quale  
 “ sit, non tam definitione quâ sum usus intelligi potest (quan-  
 “ quam aliquantum potest) quam COMMUNI omnium  
 “ JUDICIO, & optimi cuiusque studiis, atque factis ;  
 “ qui permulta ob eam unam causam faciunt, quia decet,  
 “ quia rectum, quia honestum est ; et si nullum consecuturum  
 “ emolumentum vident.” Our Author, on the other side, having little of the Orator, and less of the Constraint of Formality belonging to some graver Characters, can be more familiar on this occasion : and accordingly descending, without the least scruple, into whatever Style, or Humour ; he refuses to make the least Difficulty or *Mystery* of this matter. He pretends, on this head, to claim the Assent not only of Orators, Poets, and the higher Virtuosi, but even of the Beaux themselves, and such as go no farther than the Dancing-Master to seek for Grace and Beauty. He pretends, we see, to fetch this natural Ideâ from as familiar Amusements as Dres, Equipage, the Tiring-Room, or Toy-shop. And thus in his proper manner of *SOLILOQUY*, or *Self-Discourse*, we may imagine him running on : beginning perhaps with some particular Scheme or fancy'd Scale of BEAUTY, which, according to his Philosophy, he strives to erect ; by distinguishing, sorting, and dividing into Things *animate*, *in-animate*, and *mixt* : as thus.

In the IN-ANIMATE ; beginning from those regular Figures and Symmetrys with which Children are delighted ; and proceeding gradually to the Proportions of Architecture and

† Cic. de Fin. Bon. & Mal. lib. ii. sect. 54.

" T I F U L is harmonious and proportion- Ch. 2.  
 " able ; what is harmonious and propor- ~~U~~  
 " tionable, is T R U E ; and what is at once  
 " both beautiful and true, is, of conse-  
 " quence, agreeable and G O O D ?"

## WHERE

and the other *Arts*. — The same in respect of *Sounds* and *MUSICK*. From beautiful Stones, Rocks, *Minerals*; to *Vegetables*, Woods, aggregate Parts of the World, Seas, Rivers, Mountains, Vales. — The *Globe*. — Celestial Bodys, and their Order. The higher *Architecture* of Nature. — NATURE her-self, consider'd as *in-animate* and *passive*.

In the ANIMATE; from *Animals*, and their several Kinds, Tempers, Sagacitys, to *Men*. — And from single Persons of Men, their private *Characters*, Understandings, *Genius's*, Dispositions, Manners; to Publick Societys, *Communitys*, or *Commonwealths*. — From Flocks, Herds, and other natural *Assemblages* or *Groups* of living Creatures, to human Intelligencys and Correspondencys, or whatever is higher in the kind. The Correspondence, Union and Harmony of NATURE her-self, consider'd as *animate* and intelligent.

In the MIXT; as in a *single Person*, (a Body and a Mind) the Union and Harmony of this kind, which constitutes the real *Person*: and the Friendship, Love, or whatever other Affection is form'd on such an Object. A *Houſhold*, a *City*, or *Nation*, with certain Lands, Buildings, and other Appendices, or local Ornaments, which jointly form that agreeable Idea of *Home*, *Family*, *Country*. —

" And what of this?" (says an airy Spark, no Friend to Meditation or deep Thought) " What means this *Catalogue*, or *Scale*, as you are pleas'd to call it? Only, Sir, to satisfy my-self, That I am not alone, or single in a certain Fancy I have of a thing call'd BEAUTY; That I have almost the whole World for my Companions; and That each of us *Admirers* and earnest *Pursuers* of BEAUTY (such as in a manner we All are) if peradventure we take not a certain Sagacity along with us, we must err widely, range extravagantly, and run ever upon a false Scent. We may, in the Sportsman's Phrase, have many *Hares* afoot, but shall stick to no real *Game*, nor be fortunate in any *Captures* which may content us.

Misc. 3.

WHERE then is this BEAUTY or *Harmony* to be found? How is this SYMMETRY to be discover'd and apply'd? Is it any other *Art* than that of PHILOSOPHY, or the Study of inward Numbers and Pro-

“ See with what Ardour and Vehemence, the young Man,  
 “ neglecting his proper Race and Fellow-Creatures, and for-  
 “ getting what is *decent*, *handsom*, or *becoming* in human  
 “ Affairs, pursues these SPECIES in those common Ob-  
 “ jects of his Affection, a Horse, a Hound, a Hawk! ——  
 “ What doting on these Beautys! —— What Admiratio-  
 “ n of the Kind it-self! And of the particular *Animal*, what  
 “ Care, and *in*-<sup>a</sup> manner Idolatry and Consecration; when  
 “ the Beast beloved is (as often happens) even set apart from  
 “ use, and only kept to gaze on, and feed the enamour'd  
 “ Fancy with highest Delight! —— See! in another Youth,  
 “ not so forgetful of *Human Kind*, but rememb'ring it still  
 “ in a wrong way! a ΦιληκαλΘ of another sort, a CHÆ-  
 “ RE A. *Quam elegans formarum Spectator!* —— See!  
 “ as to other Beautys, where there is no Possession, no En-  
 “ joyment or Reward, but barely seeing and admiring: as in  
 “ the *Virtuoso*-Passion, the Love of *Painting*, and the *De-*  
 “ *signing* Arts of every kind, so often observ'd. —— How  
 “ fares it with our *princely Genius*, our *Grandee* who assem-  
 “ bles all these Beautys, and within the Bounds of his sumptu-  
 “ ous Palace incloses all these Graces of a thousand kinds?  
 “ —— What Pains! Study! Science! —— Behold the  
 “ Disposition and Order of these finer sorts of Apartments,  
 “ Gardens, Villas! —— The kind of Harmony to the Eye,  
 “ from the various Shapes and Colours agreeably mixt, and  
 “ rang'd in Lines, intercrossing without confusion, and for-  
 “ tunately co-incident. —— A Parterre, Cypressse, Groves,  
 “ Wildernes. —— Statues, here and there, of *Virtue*,  
 “ *Fortitude*, *Temperance*. —— Heroes-Bufts, *Philosophers*-  
 “ Heads; with suitable Mottos and Inscriptions. —— So-  
 “ lemn Representations of things deeply natural. —— Caves,  
 “ Grottos, Rocks. —— Urns and Obelisks in retir'd places,  
 “ and dispos'd at proper distances and points of Sight: with  
 “ all those Symmetrys which silently expres a reigning Or-  
“ der,

*Proportions*, which can exhibit this in Life? Ch. 2.  
If no other; Who, then, can possibly have UU  
a TASTE of this kind, without being be-  
holden to PHILOSOPHY? Who can ad-  
mire the outward Beautys, and not recur  
instantly to the inward, which are the  
most real and essential, the most naturally  
affecting, and of the highest Pleasure, as  
well as Profit and Advantage?

## IN

"der, Peace, Harmony, and Beauty! —— But what is  
"there answerable to this, in the MINDS of the Posses-  
"sors? —— What Possession or Propriety is theirs? What  
"Constancy or Security of Enjoyment? What Peace, what  
"Harmony WITHIN?" ——

Thus our MONOLOGIST, or *self-discourfing* Author, in his usual Strain; when incited to the Search of BEAUTY and the DECORUM, by vulgar Admiration, and the universal Acknowledgment of the SPECIES in outward Things, and in the *meaner* and *subordinate* Subjects. By this inferior Species, it seems, our strict Inspector disdains to be allur'd: And refusing to be captivated by any thing less than the *superior*, *original*, and *genuine* Kind; he walks at leisure, without Emotion, in deep philosophical Reserve, thro' all these pompous Scenes; passes unconcernedly by those Court-Pageants, the illustrious and much-envy'd Potentates of the Place; overlooks *the Rich*, *the Great*, and even *the Fair*: feeling no other Astonishment than what is accidentally rais'd in him, by the View of these Impostures, and of this specious *Snare*. For here he observes those Gentlemen chiefly to be caught and fastest held, who are the highest Ridiculers of such Reflections as his own; and who in the very height of this Ridicule prove themselves the impotent Contemners of a SPECIES, which, whether they will or no, they ardently pursue: Some, in *a Face*, and certain regular Lines, or Features: Others, in *a Palace and Apartments*: Others, in *an Equipage and Dress*. —— "O EFFEMINACY! EF-  
"FEMINACY! Who wou'd imagine this cou'd be the  
"Vice of such as appear no inconsiderable Men? —— But  
"Person is a Subject of Flattery which reaches beyond the

Misc. 3.

IN so short a compass does that Learning and Knowledge lie, on which *Manners* and *Life* depend. 'Tis *We our-selves* create and form our TASTE. If we resolve to have it *just*; 'tis in our power. We may esteem and value, approve and disapprove, as we wou'd wish. For who wou'd not rejoice to be always equal and consonant to himself, and have constantly that Opinion of things which is natural and proportionable? But who dares search OPINION to the bottom, or call in question his *early* and *prepossessing* TASTE? Who is so just to himself, as to recal his FANCY from the power of *Fashion* and *Education*, to that of REASON? Cou'd we, however, be thus courageous; we shou'd soon settle in our-selves such an Opinion of GOOD as wou'd secure to us an *invari-*

" Bloom of Youth. The experienc'd Senator and aged General, can, in our days, dispense with a *Toilet*, and take his outward Form into a very extraordinary Adjustment and Regulation.—All *Embellishments* are affected, besides the true. And thus, led by Example, whilst we run in search of *Elegancy* and *Neatness*; pursuing BEAUTY; and adding, as we imagine, more Lustre, and Value to our own *Person*; we grow, in our real *Character* and truer SELF, deform'd and monstrous, servile and abject; stooping to the lowest Terms of Courtship; and sacrificing all internal Proportion, all *intrinsick* and *real* BEAUTY and WORTH, for the sake of Things which carry scarce a Shadow of the Kind." *Supra*, VOL. II. pag. 394, &c. and VOL. I. pag. 138, &c. and pag. 337.

able,

able, agreeable, and just TASTE in Life Ch. 2.  
and Manners.



THUS HAVE I endeavour'd to tread in my *Author's* steps, and prepare the Reader for the serious and downright Philosophy, which even in this \* last commented Treatise, our Author keeps still as a Mystery, and dares not formally profess. His Pretence has been to advise Authors, and polish Styles; but his Aim has been to correct Manners, and regulate Lives. He has affected SOLILOQUY, as pretending only to censure Himself; but he has taken occasion to bring others into his Company, and make bold with Personages and Characters of no inferior Rank. He has given scope enough to Raillery and Humour; and has intrench'd very largely on the Province of us *Miscellanarian* Writers. But the Reader is † now about to see him in a new aspect, " a formal and profess'd " Philosopher, a System-Writer, a Dogmatist, and Expounder." —— *Habes contentem reum.*

So to his PHILOSOPHY I commit him. Tho, according as my Genius and

\* *Viz.* Treatise III. (ADVICE to an Author) VOL. I.

† *Viz.* In Treatise IV. (The INQUIRY, &c.) Vol. II.

Misc. 3. present Disposition will permit, I intend  
still to accompany him at a distance, keep  
him in sight, and convoy him, the best I  
am able, thro' the dangerous Seas he is a-  
bout to pass.

t

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MISCEL-

## MISCELLANY IV.

## C H A P. I.

*Connexion and Union of the Subject-Treatises. — PHILOSOPHY in form.—Metaphysics.—EGO-ity. Identity. — Moral Footing. — Proof and Discipline of the Fancies. Settlement of OPINION. — Anatomy of the Mind. — A Fable.*

WE have already, in the beginning of our preceding *Miscellany*, taken notice of our Author's Plan, and the Connection and Dependency of his \* *Joint-Tracts*, comprehended in two preceding Volumes. We are now, in our Commentator-Capacity, arriv'd at length to his second Volume, to which the three Pieces of his first appear preparatory. That they were really so

\* Above, pag. 135. Again below, 284, 285, &c.  
design'd,

Misc. 4. design'd, the *Advertisement* to the first  
Edition of his *Soliloquy* is a sufficient Proof.  
He took occasion there, in a line or two,  
under the Name of his *Printer*, or (as he  
otherwise calls him) his *Amanuensis*, to pre-  
pare us for a more elaborate and metho-  
dical Piece which was to follow. We  
have this System now before us. Nor  
need we wonder, such as it is, that it came  
so hardly into the World, and that our Au-  
thor has been deliver'd of it with so much  
difficulty, and after so long a time. His  
*Amanuensis* and he, were not, it seems,  
heretofore upon such good Terms of Cor-  
respondence. Otherwise such an unsha-  
pen *Fætus*, or false Birth, as that of which  
our Author in his \* Title-page complains,  
had not formerly appear'd abroad. Nor  
had it ever risen again in its more decent  
Form, but for the accidental Publication  
of our Author's First † Letter, which, by  
a necessary Train of Consequences, occa-  
sion'd the revival of this abortive Piece,  
and gave usherance to its Companions.

IT will appear therefore in this *Joint-*  
*Edition* of our Author's *Five Treatises*, that  
the *Three* former are preparatory to the  
*Fourth*, on which we are now enter'd;

\* *Viz.* To the INQUIRY (Treatise IV.) VOL. II.

† *Viz.* Letter of Enthusiasm, VOL. I.

and

and the *Fifth* (with which he concludes) Ch. 1. a kind of *Apology* for this reviv'd Treatise concerning *Virtue* and *Religion*.

As for his *APOLOGY* (particularly in what relates to *reveal'd Religion*, and a *World to come*) I commit the Reader to the disputant Divines, and Gentlemen, whom our Author has introduc'd in that concluding Piece of *Dialogue-Writing*, or *rhapsódical Philosophy*. Mean while, we have here no other part left us, than to enter into the *dry PHILOSOPHY*, and *rigid Manner* of our Author; without any *Excursions* into various Literature; without help from the *Comick* or *Tragick Muse*, or from the Flowers of *Poetry* or *Rhetorick*.

SUCH is our present Pattern, and strict *moral Task*; which our more humorous Reader fore-knowing, may immediately, if he pleases, turn over; skipping (as is usual in many grave Works) a Chapter or two, as he proceeds. We shall, to make amends, endeavour afterwards, in our following *MISCELLANY*, to entertain him again with more chearful Fare, and afford him a *Desert*, to rectify his Palat, and leave his Mouth at last in good relish.

To the *patient* and *grave READER*, therefore, who in order to *moralize*, can afford

Misc. 4. afford to retire into his Closet, as to some religious or devout Exercise, we presume thus to offer a few Reflections, in the support of our Author's profound INQUIRY. And accordingly, we are to imagine our Author speaking, as follows.

HOW LITTLE regard soever may be shewn to that *moral Speculation* or INQUIRY, which we call the *Study of ourselves*; it must, in strictness, be yielded, That all Knowldg whatsoever depends upon this *previous-one*: "And that we can in " reality be assur'd of nothing, till we " are first assur'd of What *we are OUR-SELVES.*" For by this alone we can know what *Certainty* and *Affurance* is.

THAT there is *something* undoubtedly which *thinks*, our very Doubt it-self and scrupulous Thought evinces. But in *what Subject* that Thought resides, and how *that Subject* is continu'd *one and the same*, so as to answer constantly to the suppos'd Train of Thoughts or Reflections which seem to run so harmoniously thro' a long Course of Life, with the *same* relation still to one *single* and *self-same PERSON*; this is not a Matter so easily or hastily decided, by those who are nice Self-Examiners, or Searchers after *Truth* and *Certainty*.

'TWILL

TWILL not, in this respect, be sufficient for us to use the seeming Logick of a famous \* Modern, and say “ *We think: therefore We are.*” Which is a notably invented Saying, after the Model of that like philosophical Proposition ; That “ *What is, is.*”— Miraculously argu’d ! “ *If I am; I am.*”— Nothing more certain ! For the *Ego* or *I*, being establish’d in the first part of the Proposition, the *Ergo*, no doubt, must hold it good in the latter. But the Question is, “ What constitutes the *We* or *I?*” And, “ Whether the *I* of this instant, be the same with that of any instant preceding, or to come.” For we have nothing but *Memory* to warrant us : and *Memory* may be false. We may believe we have thought and reflected thus or thus : but we may be mistaken. We may be conscious of that, as *Truth* ; which perhaps was no more than *Dream* : and we may be conscious of that as a *past Dream*, which perhaps was never before so much as dreamt of.

THIS is what *Metaphysicians* mean, when they say, “ That *Identity* can be prov’d only by *Consciousness* ; but that *Consciousness*, withal, may be as well

\* Monsieur DES CARTES.

“ false

Misc. 4. " false as real, in respect of what is past." ~ So that the same successional *We* or *I* must remain still, on this account, undecided.

To the force of this Reasoning I confess I must so far submit, as to declare that for my own part, I take my Being upon *Trust*. Let others philosophize as they are able: I shall admire their strength, when, upon this Topick, they have refuted what able *Metaphysicians* object, and PYRRHONISTS plead in their own behalf.

MEAN while, there is no Impediment, Hinderance, or Suspension of *Action*, on account of these wonderfully refin'd *Speculations*. Argument and Debate go on still. Conduct is settled. Rules and Measures are given out, and receiv'd. Nor do we scruple to act as resolutely upon the mere Supposition that *we are*, as if we had effectually prov'd it a thousand times, to the full satisfaction of our *Metaphysical* or *Pyrrhonean* Antagonist.

THIS to me appears sufficient Ground for a *Moralist*. Nor do I ask more, when I undertake to prove the reality of VIRTUE and MORALES.

IF it be certain that I AM; 'tis certain and demonstrable WHO and WHAT

I ought to be, even on my own account, Ch. I.  
and for the sake of my own private Hap- ~~—~~  
pines and Success. For thus I take the  
liberty to proceed.

THE *Affections*, of which I am con-  
scious, are either GRIEF, or JOY; DE-  
SIRE, or AVERSION. For whatever  
mere *Sensation* I may experience; if it a-  
mounts to neither of these, 'tis indifferent,  
and no way affects me.

THAT which causes Joy and Satisfaction when present, causes Grief and Distur-  
bance when absent: And that which causes Grief and Disturbance when present, does when absent, by the same necessity occasion Joy and Satisfaction.

THUS LOVE (which implies *Desire*, with *Hope of Good*) must afford occasion to Grief and Disturbance, when it acquires not what it earnestly seeks. And HATRED (which implies *Aversion*, and *Fear of Ill*) must, in the same manner, occasion Grief and Calamity, when that which it earnestly shun'd, or wou'd have escap'd, remains present, or is altogether unavoidable.

THAT which being *present* can never leave the Mind at rest, but must of necessity cause *Aversion*, is its ILL. But that which can be sustain'd without any necessary

Misc. 4. *sary Abhorrence, or Aversion,* is not its ~~own~~ ILL; but remains *indifferent* in its own nature; the ILL being in the Affection only, which wants redress.

IN the same manner, that which being *absent*, can never leave the Mind at rest, or without *Disturbance* and *Regret*, is of necessity its *Good*. But that which can be *absent*, without any *present* or *future Disturbance to the Mind*, is not its *Good*, but remains *indifferent* in its own nature. From whence it must follow, That the Affection towards it, as *suppos'd Good*, is an *ill Affection*, and creative only of *Disturbance* and *Disease*. So that the AFFECTIONS of *Love* and *Hatred*, *Liking* and *Dislike*, on which the Happiness or Prosperity of the Person so much depends, being influenc'd and govern'd by OPINION; the highest *Good* or *Happiness* must depend on *right Opinion*, and the highest Misery be deriv'd from *wrong*.

To explain this, I consider, for instance, the Fancy or Imagination I have of *Death*, according as I find this Subject naturally passing in my Mind. To this *Fancy*, perhaps, I find united an OPINION or APPREHENSION of *Evil* and *Calamity*. Now the more my Apprehension of this Evil increases; the greater, I find, my *Disturbance* proves, not only at the approach

approach of the suppos'd Evil, but at the Ch. 1. very distant Thought of it. Besides that, the Thought it-self will of necessity so much the oftner recur, as the *Aversion* or *Fear* is violent, and increasing.

FROM this suppos'd Evil I must, however, fly with so much the more earnestness, as the OPINION of the *Evil* increases. Now if the Increase of the *Aversion* can be no Cause of the Decrease or Diminution of the *Evil it-self*, but rather the contrary; then the Increase of the *Aversion* must necessarily prove the *Increase of Disappointment and Disturbance*. And so on the other hand, the *Diminution or Decrease* of the Aversion (if this may any way be effected) must of necessity prove the *Diminution of inward Disturbance*, and the better *Establishment of inward Quiet and Satisfaction*.

AGAIN, I consider with my-self, That I have the \* *Imagination* of something BEAUTIFUL, GREAT, and BECOMING in Things. This *Imagination* I apply perhaps

\* Of the necessary Being and Prevalency of some such IMAGINATION or SENSE (natural and common to all Men, irresistible, of original Growth in the Mind, the Guide of our Affections, and the Ground of our *Admiration, Contempt, Shame, Honour, Disdain*, and other natural and unavoidable Impressions) see VOL. I. pag. 138, 139, 336, 337. VOL. II. pag. 28, 29, 30, 394, 420, 421, 429, 430. And above, p. 30, 31, 2, 3, &c. 182, 3, 4, 5, 6. in the Notes.

Misc. 4. to such Subjects as *Plate, Jewels, Apartments, Coronets, Patents of Honour, Titles, or Precedency*s. I must therefore naturally seek these, not as mere Conveniences, Means, or Helps in Life, (for as such my Passion cou'd not be so excessive towards 'em) but as EXCELLENT in themselves, necessarily attractive of my *Admiration*, and directly and immediately causing my Happiness, and giving me Satisfaction. Now if the PASSION rais'd on this Opinion (call it *Avarice, Pride, Vanity, or Ambition*) be indeed incapable of any real Satisfaction, even under the most successful Course of Fortune ; and then too, attended with perpetual Fears of Disappointment and Loss : how can the Mind be other than miserable, when possess'd by it ? But if instead of forming thus the Opinion of GOOD ; if instead of placing WORTH or EXCELLENCE in these outward Subjects, we place it, where it is truest, in the Affections or Sentiments, in the governing Part and inward Character ; we have then the full Enjoyment of it within our power : The Imagination or Opinion remains steady and irreversible : And the Love, Desire and Appetite is answer'd ; without Apprehension of Loss or Disappointment.

HERE therefore arises Work and Employment for us Within : “ To regulate  
“ FANCY,

"FANCY, and rectify \* OPINION, on Ch. 1.  
 "which all depends." For if our *Loves*, ~~Wishes~~  
*Desires*, *Hatreds* and *Aversions* are left to  
 themselves; we are necessarily expos'd to  
 endless Vexation and Calamity: but if these  
 are found capable of Amendment, or in any  
 measure flexible or variable by *Opinion*; we  
 ought, methinks, to make trial, at least,  
 how far we might by this means acquire  
 Felicity and Content.

ACCORDINGLY, if we find it evident,  
 on one hand, that by indulging any wrong  
 Appetite (as either *Debauch*, *Malice*, or  
*Revenge*) the Opinion of the *false Good*  
 increases; and the Appetite, which is a  
*real Ill*, grows so much the stronger: we  
 may be as fully assur'd, on the other hand,  
 that by restraining this Affection, and nou-  
 rishing a contrary sort in opposition to it;  
 we cannot fail to diminish what is *Ill*, and  
 increase what is properly our *Happiness*  
 and *Good*.

\* Ὅτι πάντα ἡ μάθησις· καὶ αὐτὴ ἐπὶ σοι. Ἡ Αρεν ἔν,  
 δὲ δέλαις, τὴν ὑπόληψιν, καὶ ὁ σπερματικὸν τὴν ἀκραν  
 Γαλήνην, σανδαχεὶ πάντα καὶ κόλπῳ ἀκμάων. M. Ant. Lib.  
 xii. 22.

Ὅτιν ἔστιν ἡ λεκάνη τῆς ὑδατοφ., τοιεπον ἡ φυχὴ. Ὅτον  
 ἡ αὔγη ἡ περισπίπτουσα τῷ υδατί, τοιεπον ἀι φαντασία.  
 Ὅταν ἔν τὸ υδωρ κανθῆ, μοκεῖ μὲν καὶ ἡ αὔγη κινέσθαι.  
 Ἐ μέν τοι κινεῖται· καὶ ὅταν τόινυν σκοτωθῇ τίς, ἐχει ἀι τέχνας  
 καὶ ἀρέτας συγχέονται, ἀλλὰ τὸ πνεῦμα ἐφ' ἐτοί· καὶ λα-  
 στίνθῃ δὲ, καθίσασθαι καὶ κεῖνα. Arrian. Lib. iii. cap. 3. See  
 VOL. I. pag. 185, &c. 294, 5, 6, 324, &c. AR. VOL.  
 II. pag. 437.

Misc. 4.

ON this account, a Man may reasonably conclude, " That it becomes him, by " working upon his own Mind, to withdraw the *Fancy* or *Opinion* of Good or " Evil from that to which justly and by necessity it is not join'd; and apply it, " with the strongest Resolution, to that with which it naturally agrees." For if the *Fancy* or *Opinion* of Good be join'd to what is not durable, nor in my power either to acquire or to retain; the more such an *Opinion* prevails, the more I must be subject to Disappointment and Distress. But if there be that to which, whenever I apply the *Opinion* or *Fancy* of Good, I find the *Fancy* more consistent, and the *Good* more durable, solid, and within my Power and Command; then the more such an Opinion prevails in me, the more Satisfaction and Happiness I must experience.

Now, if I join the *Opinion* of *Good* to the Possessions of the MIND; if it be in the *Affections* themselves that I place my highest Joy, and in those Objects, whatever they are, of inward Worth and Beauty, (such as *Honesty*, *Faith*, *Integrity*, *Friendship*, *Honour*) 'tis evident I can never possibly, in this respect, rejoice amiss, or indulge myself too far in the Enjoyment. The greater my Indulgence is, the less I have reason to fear either Reverse or Disappointment.

THIS,

THIS, I know, is far contrary in another *Regimen of Life*. The Tutorage of FANCY and PLEASURE, and the easie Philosophy of taking that for Good which \* *pleases me*, or which *I fancy merely*, will, in time, give me Uneasiness sufficient. 'Tis plain, from what has been debated, That the less *fanciful* I am, in what relates to my Content and Happiness, the more powerful and absolute I must be, in Self-enjoyment, and the Possession of my Good. And since 'tis *Fancy* merely, which gives the force of Good, or power of passing as such, to Things of Chance and outward Dependency ; 'tis evident, that the more I take from *Fancy* in this respect, the more I confer upon *my-self*. As I am less led or betray'd by *Fancy* to an Esteem of what depends on *others* ; I am the more fix'd in the Esteem of what depends on *myself* alone. And if I have once gain'd the *Taste* of † *LIBERTY*, I shall easily understand the force of this Reasoning, and know both my *true SELF* and *INTEREST*.

THE Method therefore requir'd in this my inward OEconomy, is, to make those *Fancys* themselves the Objects of my Aversion which justly deserve it ; by being the Cause of a wrong Estimation and Measure

\* VOL. I. pag. 308. VOL. II. pag. 227.

† VOL. II. pag. 432. And below, pag. 307, &c.

Misc. 4. of *Good* and *Ill*, and consequently the Cause  
of my Unhappiness and Disturbance.

ACCORDINGLY (as the learned Masters in this Science advise) we are to begin rather \* by the *averse*, than by the *prone* and *forward* Disposition. We are to work rather by the weaning than the ingaging Passions: since if we give way chiefly to *Inclination*, by loving, applauding and admiring what is *Great* and *Good*, we may possibly, it seems, in some high Objects of that kind, be so amus'd and extasy'd, as to lose

\* Ἀρον γε τὸν ἔκκλισιν ἀπὸ πρότυπων σῆμα ἐφ' ἡμῖν, καὶ μελάθεις ἐπὶ τὰ φέρεται φύσιν σῆμα ἐφ' ἡμῖν. Epictet. Enchirid. cap. vii.

<sup>1</sup> Ορεξίν ἀρχαί σε δὲ ταντελῶς, ἔκκλισιν ἐπὶ μόνα μελάθειται τὰ φέρεται φύσιν. Arrian. Lib. iii. cap. 22. This subdu'd or moderated *Admiration* or *Zeal* in the highest Subjects of *Virtue* and *Divinity*, the Philosopher calls σύμμετον καὶ γνωστικόν τινα "Ορεξίν; the contrary Disposition, τὸ ἀλογον καὶ ὠσικὸν. Lib. ii. cap. 26. The Reason why this over-forward Ardor and Pursuit of high Subjects runs naturally into Enthusiasm and Disorder, is shewn in what succeeds the first of the Passages here cited; viz. Τῶν δὲ ἐφ' ἡμῖν, ὅσῳ διέγενεται καλὸν δι', καὶ δὲν ἐδέπω σοι περίεστι. And hence the repeated Injunction, Ἀπόρχε ποτὲ ταντίπατιν διέξεως, ίνα ποτὲ καὶ ἐν λόγῳς διερχθῆς· εἰ δὲν εὐλόγως, δταν ἔχεις τι ἐν σεαυτῷ ἀγαθὸν εὐ διερχθῆσον. Lib. iii. cap. 13. To this HORACE, in one of his lateit Epistles of the deeply philosophical kind, alludes.

*Insani sapiens nomen ferat, aequus iniqui,  
Ultra quam satis est Virtutem si petat ipsam.* Lib. i. Ep. vi.  
And in the beginning of the Epistle : ver. 15.

*Nil admirari prope res est una, Numici,  
Solaq; quæ posset facere & servare beatum.* Ibid. ver. 1.  
For tho these first Lines (as many other of HORACE's on the Subject of Philosophy) have the Air of the EPICUREAN Discipline and LUCRETIAN Style ; yet by the whole

lose our-selves, and miss our proper Mark, Ch. i. for want of a steady and settled Aim. But ~~the~~ being more sure and infallible in what relates to our *Ill*, we shou'd begin, they tell us, by applying our Aversion, on that side, and raising our Indignation against those Meannesses of Opinion and Sentiment, which are the Causes of our Subjection, and Perplexity.

THUS the COVETOUS FANCY, if consider'd as the Cause of Misery, (and consequently detested as a real Ill) must of necessity abate: And the AMBITIOUS FANCY, if oppos'd in the same manner, with Resolution, by better Thought, must resign it-self, and leave the Mind free, and disincumber'd in the pursuit of its better Objects.

NOR is the Case different in the Passion of COWARDICE, or FEAR OF

whole taken together, it appears evidently on what System of antient Philosophy this Epistle was form'd. Nor was this Prohibition of the *wondering* or *admiring* Habit, in early Students, peculiar to *one* kind of Philosophy alone. It was common to many; however the Reason and Account of it might differ, in one Sect from the other. The PYTHAGOREANS sufficiently check'd their TYRO's, by silencing them so long on their first Courtship to *Philosophy*. And tho' *Admiration*, in the Peripatetick Sense, as above-mention'd, may be justly call'd the inclining Principle or first Motive to PHILOSOPHY; yet this Mistress, when once espous'd, teaches us to *admire*, after a different manner from what we did before. See above, pag. 37. And VOL. I. pag. 41.

Misc. 4. DEATH. For if we leave this Passion to ~~the~~ it-self, (or to certain Tutors to manage for us) it may lead us to the most anxious and tormenting State of Life. But if it be oppos'd by founder Opinion, and a just Estimation of things, it must diminish of course: And the natural Result of such a Practice must be, the Rescue of the Mind from numberless Fears, and Miserys of other kinds.

THUS at last a MIND, by knowing it-self, and its own proper Powers and Virtues, becomes free, and independent. It sees its Hindrances and Obstructions, and finds they are wholly from it-self, and from Opinions wrong-conceiv'd. The more it conquers in this respect, (be it in the least particular) the more it is its own Master, feels its own natural LIBERTY, and congratulates with it-self on its own Advance-  
ment and Prosperity.

WHETHER some who are call'd Philosophers have so apply'd their Meditations, as to understand any thing of this Language, I know not. But well I am assur'd that many an honest and free-hearted Fellow, among the vulgar Rank of People, has naturally some kind of Feeling or Apprehension of this Self-enjoyment; when refusing to act for Lucre or outward Profit, the Thing which from his Soul he abhors, and thinks below him; he goes on, with harder Labour,

Labour, but more Content, in his direct Ch. i.  
plain Path. He is secure *within*; free of *UWU*  
what the World calls *Policy*, or Design;  
and sings, according to the old *Ballad*,

*My Mind to me a Kingdom is, &c.*

Which in *Latin* we may translate,

\* —————— *Et meā*  
*Virtute me involvo, probamque*  
*Pauperiem sine dote quero.*

BUT I FORGET, it seems, that I  
am now speaking in the Person of our grave  
INQUIRER. I shou'd consider I have no  
Right to vary from the Pattern he has set;  
and that whilst I accompany him in this  
particular Treatise, I ought not to make  
the least Escape out of the high Road of  
Demonstration, into the diverting Paths of  
*Poetry*, or *Humour*.

As grave however as MORALS are  
presum'd *in their own nature*, I look upon  
it as an essential matter in their Delivery,  
to take now and then the natural Air of  
*Pleasantry*. The first MORALS which  
were ever deliver'd in the World, were  
in *Parables*, *Tales*, or *Fables*. And the  
latter and most consummate Distributers

\* Horat. Lib. iii. Od. xxix. ver. 54.

Misc. 4. of Morals, in the very politest times, were  
~~~ great *Tale-Tellers*, and Retainers to honest  
ÆSOP.

AFTER all the regular *Demonstrations* and *Deductions* of our grave Author, I dare say 'twou'd be a high Relief and Satisfaction to his Reader, to hear an *Apologue*, or *Fable*, well told, and with such humour as to need no sententious *Moral* at the end, to make the application.

As an Experiment in this case, let us at this instant imagine our grave *Inquirer* taking pains to shew us, at full length, the unnatural and unhappy Excursions, Rovings, or Expeditions of our ungovern'd FANCYS and OPINIONS over a World of Riches, Honours, and other ebbing and flowing Goods. He performs this, we will suppose, with great Sagacity, to the full measure and scope of our Attention. Mean while, as full or satiated as we might find our-selves of serious and solid Demonstration, 'tis odds but we might find Vacancy still sufficient to receive Instruction by another Method. And I dare answer for success, shou'd a merrier Moralist of the ÆSOPÆAN-School present himself; and, hearing of this *Chace* describ'd by our *Philosopher*, beg leave to represent it to the life, by a homely *Cur* or two, of his Master's ordinary breed.

" Two

“ Two of this Race (he wou’d tell us) having been daintily bred, and in high thoughts of what they call’d *Pleasure* and *good Living*, travel’d once in quest of Game and Raritys, till they came by accident to the Sea-side. They saw there, at a distance from the shore, some floating pieces of a Wreck, which they took a fancy to believe some wonderful rich *Dainty*, richer than *Ambergreese*, or the richest Product of the Ocean. They cou’d prove it, by their Appetite and Longing, to be no less than *Quintessence of the Main*, *ambrosial Substance*, the *Repast of marine Deitys*, surpassing all which *Earth* afforded.— By these rhetorical Arguments, after long Reasoning with one another in this florid Vein, they proceeded from one Extravagance of Fancy to another ; till they came at last to this issue. Being unaccustom’d to Swimming, they wou’d not, it seems, in prudence, venture so far out of their Depth as was necessary to reach their imagin’d *Prize* : But being stout Drinkers, they thought with themselves, they might compass to drink all which lay in their way ; even *The SEA* it-self ; and that by this me-thod they might shortly bring their Goods safe to dry Land. To work there—

Misc. 4. " therefore they went ; and drank till  
~~~ " they were both *burst*."

FOR my own part, I am fully satisfy'd that there are more *Sea-drinkers* than one or two, to be found among the principal Personages of Mankind ; and that if these *Dogs* of ours were *filly Curs*, many who pass for *wise* in our own Race are little wiser ; and may properly enough be said to have *the Sea to drink*.

'Tis pretty evident that they who live in the highest Sphere of human Affairs, have a very uncertain View of the thing call'd *Happiness* or *Good*. It lies out at Sea, far distant, in the *Offin* ; where those Gentlemen ken it but very imperfectly : And the means they employ in order to come up with it, are very wide of the matter, and far short of their propos'd End. — " First a general Acquaintance.—Visits, Levees.—Attendance upon the Great and Little.—Popularity.—A Place in Parliament.—Then another at Court.— Then Intrigue, Corruption, Prostitution.— Then a higher Place.— Then a Title.— Then a Remove.— A new MINISTER !— Fractions at Court.— Ship-wreck of Ministrys.— The new : The old.— Engage with one : piece up with t'other.— " Bar-

“ Bargains ; Losses ; After-Games ; Retrie-Ch. i.  
“ vals.”—Is not this, *the Sea to drink?* 

\* *At si Divitiae prudentem reddere pos-  
sent,  
Si cupidum timidumque minus te ; nem-  
pe ruberes,  
Viveret in Terris te si quis avarior uno.*

But lest I shou’d be tempted to fall into a manner I have been oblig’d to disclaim in this part of my *Miscellaneous Performance* ; I shall here set a Period to this Discourse, and renew my attempt of serious Reflection and grave Thought, by taking up my Clew in a fresh Chapter.

\* Horat. Lib. ii. Epist. ii. ver. 155.

## C H A P. II.

*Passage from Terra Incognita to the visible World.—Mistress-ship of NATURE.—Animal-Confederacy, Degrees, Subordination.—Master-Animal Man. Privilege of his Birth.—Serious Countenance of the Author.*

AS heavily as it went with us, in the deep philosophical part of our preceding Chapter ; and as necessarily engag'd as we still are to prosecute the same serious INQUIRY, and Search, into those dark Sources ; 'tis hop'd, That our remaining *Philosophy* may flow in a more easy Vein ; and the second Running be found somewhat clearer than the first. However it be ; we may, at least, congratulate with our-selves for having thus briefly pass'd over that *Metaphysical* part, to which we have paid sufficient deference. Nor shall we scruple to declare our Opinion, “ That it is, in a manner, necessary “ for one who wou'd usefully *philosophize*, “ to have a *Knowledg* in this part of Phi-“ losophy, sufficient to satisfy him that “ there

"there is no *Knowledg* or *Wisdom* to be Ch. 2.  
"learnt from it." For of this Truth no-Whing besides Experience and Study will  
be able fully to convince him.

WHEN we are even past these empty Regions and Shadows of Philosophy; 'twill still perhaps appear an uncomfortable kind of travelling thro' those other *invisible Ideal Worlds*: such as the Study of *Morals*, we see, engages us to visit. Men must acquire a very peculiar and strong Habit of turning their Eye inwards, in order to explore the *interior Regions* and *Recesses* of the MIND, the *hollow Caverns* of deep *Thought*, the private Seats of *Fancy*, and the *Wastes* and *WildernesSES*, as well as the more fruitful and cultivated *Tracts* of this *obscure Climate*.

BUT what can one do? Or how dispense with these *darker Disquisitions* and *Moon-light Voyages*, when we have to deal with a sort of *Moon-blind WITS*, who tho' very acute and able in their kind, may be said to renounce *Day-light*, and *extinguish*, in a manner, the bright visible outward World, by allowing us to know nothing beside what we can *prove*, by strict and formal *Demonstration*?

'TIS therefore to satisfy such rigid *Inquirers* as these, that we have been necessitated

Misc. 4. tated to proceed by the *inward way*; and  
 ~~~~~ that in our preceding Chapter we have  
 built only on such foundations as are ta-  
 ken from our very *Perceptions*, *Fancys*, *Ap-  
 pearances*, *Affections*, and *Opinions* them-  
 selves, without regard to any thing of *an  
 exterior WORLD*, and even on the sup-  
 position that there is *no such World in  
 being*.

SUCH has been our late dry Task. No  
 wonder if it carrys, indeed, a meagre and  
 raw Appearance. It may be look'd on,  
*in Philosophy*, as worse than a mere EGYP-  
 TIAN *Imposition*. For to make *Brick*  
 without *Straw* or *Stubble*, is perhaps an ea-  
 sier labour, than to prove *MORALS* with-  
 out *a World*, and establish *a Conduct of Life*  
 without the Supposition of *any thing living  
 or extant* besides our immediate *Fancy*, and  
*WORLD of Imagination*.

BUT having finished this *mysterious*  
 Work, we come now to open *Day*, and  
*Sunshine*: And, as a Poet perhaps might  
 express himself, we are now ready to quit

*The dubious Labyrinths, and Pyrrhonean  
 Cells  
 Of a Cimmerian Darkness.* —

We are, henceforward, to trust our Eyes,  
 and take for real *the whole Creation*, and  
the

the fair *Forms* which lie before us. We Ch. 2. are to believe the Anatomy of our own ~~own~~ Body, and in proportionable Order, the *Shapes, Forms, Habits, and Constitutions* of other Animal-Races. Without demurring on the profound modern Hypothesis of *animal Insensibility*, we are to believe firmly and resolutely, "That other Creatures have their *Sense* and *Feeling*, their mere *Passions* and *Affections*, as well as our-selves." And in this manner we proceed accordingly, on our Author's Scheme, "To inquire what is truly *natural* to each Creature: And Whether that which is *natural* to each, and is its *Perfection*, be not withal its *Happiness*; or *Good*."

To deny there is any thing properly *natural*, (after the Concessions already made) wou'd be undoubtedly very preposterous and absurd. NATURE and the outward World being own'd existent, the rest must of necessity follow. The *Anatomy* of Bodys, the *Order* of the Spheres; the *proper Mechanisms* of a thousand kinds, and the infinite *Ends* and suitable *Means* establish'd in the general Constitution and Order of Things; all this being once admitted, and allow'd to pass as certain and unquestionable, 'tis as vain afterwards to except against the Phrase of *natural* and *unnatural*, and question the Propriety

Misc. 4. of this Speech apply'd to the particular Forms and Beings in the World, as it wou'd be to except against the common Appellations of *Vigour* and *Decay* in Plants, *Health* or *Sickness* in Bodys, *Sobriety* or *Distraction* in Minds, *Prosperity* or *Degeneracy* in any variable part of the known Creation.

WE may, perhaps, for Humour sake, or after the known way of disputant Hostility, in the support of any odd Hypothesis, pretend to deny this *natural* and *unnatural* in Things. 'Tis evident however, that tho our Humour or Taste be, by such Affectation, ever so much deprav'd ; we cannot resist our natural \* *Anticipation* in behalf of  
NATURE ;

\* See what is said above on the word *Sensus Communis*, in that second Treatise, VOL. I. pag. 103, &c. and pag. 110, 138, 139, 140. And in the same VOL. p. 336, &c. and 352, 353, &c. And in VOL. II. p. 307, 411, 412, &c. concerning the *natural Ideas*, and the *Pre-conceptions* or *Pre-sensations* of this kind ; the Περὶ λόγου, of which a learned Critick and Master in all Philosophy, modern and antient, takes notice, in his lately publish'd Volume of Socratick Dialogues ; where he adds this Reflection, with respect to some Philosophical Notions much in vogue amongst us, of late, here in ENGLAND. *Obiter dumtaxat addemus, Socraticam, quam exposuimus, Doctrinam magno usui esse posse, si probè expendatur, dirimendæ inter viros doctos controværie, ante paucos annos, in BRITANNIA præsertim, exortæ, de Ideis Innatis, quas dicere possis ἐμφύτες ἔννοιας. Quamvis enim nullæ sint, si adcurate loquamur, notiones à natura animis nostris infixæ ; etiamen nemo negârit ita esse facultates Animorum nostrorum naturâ affectas, ut quam primum ratione uti incipimus, Verum à Falso, Malum à Bono*

NATURE; according to whose suppos'd Ch. 2. Standard we perpetually approve and dis-~~approve~~ approve, and to whom in all natural Appearances, all moral Actions (whatever we contemplate, whatever we have in de-

Bono aliquo modo distinguere incipiamus. Species Veritatis nobis semper placet; displicet contra Mendacii: Ino & HONESTUM INHONESTO præferimus; ob Semina nobis indita, quæ tum demum in lucem prodeunt, cuni ratiocinari possamus, eoque ubiores fructus proferunt, quo melius ratiocinamur, ad curatioreque institutione adjuvamur. Æsch. Dial. cum Silvis Philol. Jo. Cler. ann. 1711. pag. 176. They seem indeed to be but weak Philosophers, tho' able Sophists, and artful Confounders of Words and Notions, who wou'd refute Nature and Common Sense. But NATURE will be able still to shift for her-self, and get the better of those Schemes, which need no other Force against them, than that of HORACE's single Verse:

*Dente Lupus, cornu Taurus petit. Unde, nisi INTUS Monstratum?* Lib. ii. Sat. 1. ver. 52.

An ASS (as an English Author says) never butts with his Ears; tho' a Creature born to an arm'd Forehead, exercises his butting Faculty long ere his Horns are come to him. And perhaps if the Philosopher wou'd accordingly examine himself, and consider his natural Passions, he wou'd find there were such belong'd to him as Nature had premeditated in his behalf, and for which she had furnish'd him with Ideas long before any particular Practice or Experience of his own. Nor wou'd he need be scandaliz'd with the Comparison of a Goat, or Boar, or other of HORACE's premeditating Animals, who have more natural Wit, it seems, than our Philosopher; if we may judg of him by his own Hypothesis, which denies the same implanted SENSE and natural Ideas to his own Kind.

*Cras donaberis Hædo,  
Cui Frons turgida Cornibus  
Primis, & Venerem & Prælia destinat.* Lib. iii. Od. 13. ver. 3.

And,

*Verris obliquum meditantis Lætum.*  
Ib. Od. 22. ver. 7.

Misc. 4. bate) we inevitably appeal, and pay our  
 ~~~~~ constant Homage, with the most apparent  
 Zeal and Passion.

'Tis here, above all other places, that  
 we say with strict Justice,

\* NATURAM expellas Furcā, tamen  
 usque recurret.

THE airy Gentlemen, who have never had it in their thoughts to study NATURE in their own Species; but being taken with other Loves, have apply'd their Parts and Genius to the same Study in a Horse, a Dog, a Game-Cock, a Hawk, or any other † Animal of that degree; know very well, that to each Species there belongs a several Humour, Temper, and Turn of inward Disposition, as real and peculiar as the Figure and outward Shape, which is with so much Curiosity beheld and admir'd. If there be any thing ever so little amiss or wrong in the inward Frame, the Humour or Temper of the Creature, 'tis readily call'd vicious; and when more than ordinarily wrong, unnatural. The Humours of the Creatures, in order to their redrefs, are attentively observ'd; sometimes indulg'd and flatter'd;

\* Hor. Lib. i. Ep. 10. ver. 24.

† VOL. II. pag. 92, 93, &c. and 131, &c. and pag. 507, &c.

at other times controul'd and check'd Ch. 2. with proper Severitys. In short, their own Affections, Passions, Appetites, and Antipathys, are as duly regarded as those in Human Kind, under the strictest Discipline of Education. Such is the SENSE of inward Proportion and Regularity of Affections, even in our Noble Youths themselves; who in this respect are often known expert and able Masters of Education, tho not so susceptible of Discipline and Culture in their own case, after those early Indulgences to which their Greatness has intitled 'em.

As little favourable however as these sportly Gentlemen are presum'd to show themselves towards the Care or Culture of their own Species; as remote as their Contemplations are thought to lie from Nature and Philosophy; they confirm plainly and establish our philosophical Foundation of the natural Ranks, Orders, interior and exterior Proportions of the several distinct Species and Forms of Animal Beings. Ask one of these Gentlemen, unawares, when sollicitously careful and busy'd in the great Concerns of his Stable, or Kennel, "Whether his Hound or "Greyhound-Bitch who eats her Puppys, "is as natural as the other who nurses " 'em?" and he will think you frantic. Ask him again, "Whether he

Misc. 4. " thinks the *unnatural* Creature who acts  
thus, or the *natural-one* who does other-  
wise, is best in its kind, and enjoys it-  
self the most?" And he will be in-  
clin'd to think still as strangely of you.  
Or if perhaps he esteems you worthy of  
better Information; he will tell you, " That  
his *best-bred* Creatures, and of the *truest*  
*Race*, are ever the noblest and most ge-  
nerous in their *Natures*: That it is this  
chiefly which makes the difference be-  
tween the *Horse* of good Blood, and the  
errant *Jade* of a base Breed; between the  
*Game-Cock*, and the *Dunghil-Craven*;  
between the true *Hawk*, and the mere  
*Kite* or *Buzzard*; and between the right  
*Mastiff*, *Hound*, or *Spaniel*, and the very  
*Mongrel.*" He might, withal, tell you  
perhaps with a masterly Air in this Brute-  
Science, " That the timorous, poor-spi-  
rited, lazy and gluttonous of his *Dogs*,  
were those whom he either suspected to  
be of a spurious Race, or who had been  
by some accident spoil'd in their Nur-  
sing and Management: for that this  
was not *natural* to 'em. That in every  
Kind, they were still the miserablest  
Creatures who were thus spoil'd: And  
that having each of 'em their proper  
*Chace* or *Business*, if they lay resty and  
*out of their Game*, chamber'd, and idle,  
they were the same as if taken out of  
their Element. That the saddest Curs  
in

“ in the world, were those who took the Ch. 2.  
“ Kitchin-Chimney and Dripping-pan for ~~the~~  
“ their Delight; and that the only hap-  
“ py DOG (were one to be a Dog ONE’s-  
“ SELF) was he, who in his *proper* Sport  
“ and *Exercise*, his *natural* Pursuit and  
“ Game, endur’d all Hardships, and had  
“ so much delight in Exercise and in the  
“ Field, as to forget *Home* and his *Re-  
“ ward.*”

THUS the *natural* Habits and Affec-  
tions of the inferior Creatures are known;  
and their *unnatural* and degenerate part  
discover’d. Depravity and Corruption is  
acknowledg’d as real in their *Affections*,  
as when any thing is mishapen, wrong,  
or monstrous in their *outward Make*. And  
notwithstanding much of this inward De-  
pravity is discoverable in the Creatures  
tam’d by Man, and, for his Service or  
Pleasure merely, turn’d from their natural  
Course into a contrary Life and Habit;  
notwithstanding that, by this means, the  
Creatures who naturally herd with one  
another, lose their associating Humour,  
and they who naturally pair and are con-  
stant to each other, lose their kind of con-  
jugal Alliance and Affection; yet when  
releas’d from human Servitude, and return’d  
again to their natural *Wilds*, and rural Li-  
berty, they instantly resume their *natural*  
and regular Habits, such as are conducing

Misc. 4. to the Increase and Prosperity of their  
own Species.

WELL it is perhaps for *Mankind*, that tho there are so many Animals who naturally herd for *Company's sake*, and mutual *Affection*, there are so few who for *Convenience*, and by *Necessity* are oblig'd to a strict Union, and kind of confederate State. The Creatures who, according to the O<sup>E</sup>conomy of their Kind, are oblig'd to make themselves Habitations of Defense against the Seasons and other Incidents ; they who in some parts of the Year are depriv'd of all Subsistence, and are therefore necessitated to accumulate in another, and to provide withal for the Safety of their collected Stores, are by *their Nature* indeed as strictly join'd, and with as proper Affections towards their Publick and Community, as the looser Kind, of a more easy Subsistence and Support, are united in what relates merely to their Offspring, and the Propagation of their Species. Of these *thoroughly associating and confederate-Animals*, there are none I have ever heard of, who in Bulk or Strength exceed the BEAVER. The major part of these *political Animals*, and Creatures of a joint Stock, are as inconsiderable as the Race of ANTS or BEES. But had Nature assign'd such an O<sup>E</sup>conomy as this to so puissant an Animal, for instance, as the ELEPHANT, and

and made him withal as prolifick as those Ch. 2.  
smaller Creatures commonly are ; it might ~~be~~  
have gone hard perhaps with *Mankind* :  
And a single Animal, who by his proper  
Might and Prowess has often decided the  
Fate of the greatest Battels which have been  
fought by Human Race, shou'd he have  
grown up into a Society, with a Genius  
for Architecture and Mechanicks proportionable  
to what we observe in those  
smaller Creatures ; we shou'd, with all our  
invented Machines, have found it hard  
to dispute with him the Dominion of the  
Continent.

WERE we in a disinterested View, or  
with somewhat less Selfishness than ordinary,  
to consider the Oconomys, Parts,  
Interests, Conditions, and Terms of Life,  
which *Nature* has distributed and assign'd  
to the several *Species* of Creatures round  
us, we shou'd not be apt to think our-  
selves so hardly dealt with. But Whether  
our Lot in this respect be just, or equal,  
is not the Question with us, at present.  
'Tis enough that we know " There is cer-  
tainly *an Assignment* and *Distribution* :  
" That each *Oconomy* or *Part* so distri-  
buted, is in it-self uniform, fix'd, and  
invariable : and That if any thing in  
the Creature be accidentally impair'd ;  
" if any thing in the inward Form, the  
Disposition, Temper or Affections, be  
" contrary

Misc. 4. " contrary or unsutable to the distinct  
 ↞ " Oeconomy or Part, the Creature is  
 " *wretched and unnatural.*"

THE social or natural Affections, which our Author considers as essential to the Health, *Wholeness*, or Integrity of the particular Creature, are such as contribute to the Welfare and Prosperity of that *Whole* or *Species*, to which he is by Nature join'd. All the Affections of this kind our Author comprehends in that single name of *natural*. But as the Design or End of Nature in each Animal-System, is exhibited chiefly in the Support and Propagation of the particular Species ; it happens, of consequence, that those Affections of earliest Alliance and mutual Kindness between the Parent and the Offspring, are known more particularly by the name of \* *natural Affection*. However, since it is evident that all Defect or Depravity of Affection, which counterworks or opposes the original Constitution and Oeconomy of the Creature, is *unnatural* ; it follows, " That in Creatures who by their particular Oeconomy are fitted to the *strictest Society* and Rule of common Good, the most *unnatural* of all Affections are those which separate from this Community ; and the most

\* Στόγη; for which we have no particular Name in our Language.

" truly

" truly natural, generous and noble, are Ch. 2.  
" those which tend towards *Publick Ser-* ~~vice~~  
" vice, and the Interest of the SOCIETY  
" at large."

THIS is the main *Problem* which our Author in more *philosophical* Terms demonstrates, \* in this Treatise, " That for a Creature whose natural End is Society, to operate as is by Nature appointed him towards the Good of such his SOCIETY, or WHOLE, is in reality to pursue his own natural and proper GOOD." And That to operate contrary-wise, or by such Affections as sever from that common Good, or publick Interest, is, in reality, to work towards his own natural and proper ILL." Now if Man, as has been prov'd, be justly rank'd in the number of those Creatures whose OEcconomy is according to a joint-Stock and publick-Weal; if it be understood, withal, that the only State of his Affections which answers rightly to this publick-Weal, is the regular, orderly, or virtuous State; it necessarily follows, " That VIRTUE is his natural Good, and VICE his Misery and Ill."

As for that further Consideration,  
" Whether NATURE has orderly and  
" justly distributed the several OEconomies

\* *Viz.* The INQUIRY concerning Virtue, VOL. II.

Misc. 4. " or *Parts*; and Whether the Defects,  
 ~~~~~ " Failures, or Calamitys of *particular* Sys-  
 " tems are to the advantage of all *in ge-*  
 " *neral*, and contribute to the Perfection  
 " of the *one* common and universal Sys-  
 " tem;" we must refer to our Author's  
 profounder Speculations in this his IN-  
 QUiry, and in his following *Philosophick*  
 DIALOGUE. But if what he advances in  
 this respect be real, or at least the most  
 probable by far of any Scheme or Repre-  
 sentation which can be made of *the Uni-*  
*versal Nature and Cause of things*; it will  
 follow, " That since MAN has been so  
 " constituted, by means of his rational  
 " Part, as to be conscious of this his  
 " more immediate Relation to the Uni-  
 " versal System, and Principle of Order  
 " and Intelligence; he is not only by  
 " Nature sociable, within the Limits of  
 " his own Species, or Kind; but in a  
 " yet more generous and extensive man-  
 " ner. He is not only *born to VIRTUE,*  
 " *Friendship, Honesty, and Faith*; but to  
 " *RELIGION, Piety, Adoration*, and \* a  
 " generous Surrender of his Mind to what-  
 " ever happens from that *Supreme CAUSE,*  
 " or *ORDER of Things*, which he ac-  
 " knowledges intirely *just, and perfect.*"

\* VOL. II. pag. 72, 73, &c.

THESE ARE our *Author's* formal and grave Sentiments ; which if they were not truly *his*, and sincerely espous'd by him, as the real Result of his best Judgment and Understanding, he wou'd be guilty of a more than common degree of Imposture. For, according to his own \* Rule, an affected Gravity, and feign'd Seriousness carry'd on, thro' any Subject, in such a manner as to leave no Insight into the Fiction or intended Raillery ; is in truth no *Raillery*, or *Wit*, at all ; but a gross, immoral, and illiberal way of *Abuse*, foreign to the Character of a *good Writer*, a *Gentleman*, or *Man of Worth*.

BUT since we have thus acquitted ourselves of that serious Part, of which our Reader was before-hand well appriz'd ; let him now expect us again in our original MISCELLANEOUS Manner and Capacity. 'Tis here, as has been explain'd to him, that *Raillery* and *Humour* are permitted : and Flights, Sallys, and Excursions of every kind are found agreeable and requisite. Without this, there might be less Safety found, perhaps, in *Thinking*. Every light *Reflection* might run us up to the dangerous State of *Meditation*.

\* VOL. I. pag. 63.

And

Misc. 4. And in reality, *profound Thinking* is many  
times the Cause of *shallow Thought*. To  
prevent this *contemplative Habit* and *Character*, of which we see so little good effect  
in the World, we have reason perhaps to  
be fond of the *diverting Manner* in Writ-  
ting, and Discourse, especially if the Sub-  
ject be of a *solemn kind*. There is more  
need, in this case, to interrupt the long-  
spun Thred of Reasoning, and bring into  
the Mind, by *many* different Glances and  
broken Views, what cannot so easily be in-  
troduc'd by *one* steddy Bent, or continu'd  
Stretch of Sight.

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## MISCELLANY V.

## C H A P. I.

*Ceremonial adjusted, between AUTHOR and READER.—Affection of Precedency in the former.—Various Claim to Inspiration.—Bards; Prophets: Sibylline Scripture.—Written Oracles; in Verse and Prose.—Common Interest of antient Letters, and Christianity.—State of Wit, Elegance, and Correctness.—Poetick Truth.—Preparation for Criticism on our Author, in his concluding Treatise.*

OF all the artificial Relations, form'd between Mankind, the most capricious and variable is that of *Author* and *Reader*. Our Author, for his part, has declar'd his Opinion of this, where

Misc. 5. where \* he gives his Advice to modern  
 Authors. And tho he supposes that every  
*Author in Form*, is, in respect of the par-  
 ticular matter he explains, superior in  
 Understanding to his *Reader*; yet he al-  
 lows not that any Author shou'd assume  
 the upper hand; or pretend to withdraw  
 himself from that necessary Subjection to  
 foreign Judgment and Criticism, which  
 must determine the Place of Honour on  
 the Reader's side.

'Tis evident that an Author's Art and Labour are for his *Reader's* sake alone. 'Tis to his Reader he makes his application, if not openly and avowedly, yet, at least, with implicit Courtship. Poets indeed, and especially those of a modern kind, have a peculiar manner of treating this Affair with a high hand. They pretend to set themselves above Mankind. "Their "Pens are *sacred*: Their Style and Utte- "rance *divine*." They write, often, as in a Language foreign to human Kind; and wou'd disdain to be reminded of those poor Elements of Speech, their *Alphabet* and *Grammar*.

BUT here inferior Mortals presume of- ten to intercept their Flight, and remind them of their fallible and human part:

\* Viz. Treatise III. VOL. I.

Had

Had those first Poets who began this Pre-Ch. 1. tence to *Inspiration*, been taught a manner of communicating their rapturous Thoughts and high Ideas by some other Medium than that of *Style* and *Language*; the Case might have stood otherwise. But the *inspiring DIVINITY or MUSE* having, in the Explanation of her-self, submitted her Wit and Sense to the mechanick Rules of *human arbitrary Composition*; she must, in consequence, and by necessity, submit her-self to *human Arbitration*, and the *Judgment* of the literate *World*. And thus THE READER is still superior, and keeps the upper hand.

'Tis indeed no small Absurdity, to assert a Work or Treatise, written in *human Language*, to be above *human Criticism*, or *Censure*. For if the Art of Writing be from the grammatical Rules of *human Intervention* and *Determination*; if even these Rules are form'd on casual Practice and various Use: there can be no *Scripture* but what must of necessity be subject to the Reader's narrow Scrutiny and strict Judgment; unless a Language and Grammar, different from any of *human Structure*, were deliver'd down from Heaven, and miraculously accommodated to *human Service* and Capacity.

Misc. 5.

~~~ 'Tis no otherwise in the grammatical Art of Characters, and *painted Speech*, than in the Art of *Painting* it-self. I have seen, in certain Christian Churches, an ancient Piece or two, affirm'd, on the solemn Faith of Priestly Tradition, " to " have been Angelically and Divinely " wrought, by a supernatural Hand, and " sacred Pencil." Had the Piece happen'd to be of a Hand like RAPHAEL's, I cou'd have found nothing certain to oppose to this Tradition. But having observ'd the whole *Style* and Manner of the pretended heavenly Workmanship to be so indifferent as to vary in many Particulars from the *Truth of Art*, I presum'd within my-self to beg pardon of the Tradition, and assert confidently, " That if " the *Pencil* had been Heaven-guided, it " cou'd never have been so lame in its " performance :" It being a mere contradiction to all Divine and Moral Truth, that a *Celestial Hand*, submitting it-self to the Rudiments of a *human Art*, shou'd sin against the ART it-self, and express *Falshood* and *Error*, instead of *Justness* and *Proportion*.

IT may be alledg'd perhaps, " That " there are, however, certain AUTHORS " in the World, who tho, of themselves, " they neither boldly claim the Privilege " of

" of *Divine Inspiration*, nor carry indeed Ch. I.  
" the least resemblance of *Perfection* in ~~~  
" their Style or Composition ; yet they  
" subdue the READER, gain the ascendent  
" over his Thought and Judgment, and  
" force from him a certain *implicit Veneration*  
" and *Esteem*." To this I can only  
answer, " That if there be neither Spell  
nor Inchantment in the Case ; this can  
plainly be no other than mere ENTHU-  
SIASM ;" except, perhaps, where *the supreme Powers* have given their Sanction to  
any *religious Record*, or *pious Writ* : And  
in this Case, indeed, it becomes immoral  
and profane in any one, to deny absolutely,  
or dispute *the sacred Authority* of the least  
Line or Syllable contain'd in it. But shou'd  
*the Record*, instead of being *single, short*  
and *uniform*, appear to be *multifarious,*  
*voluminous*, and *of the most difficult Interpretation* ; it wou'd be somewhat hard, if  
not wholly impracticable in the Magistrate,  
to suffer this Record to be *universally current*, and at the same time prevent its being  
*variously apprehended* and *descanted on*, by  
the several *differing Genius's* and *contrary Judgments* of Mankind.

'Tis remarkable, that in the politest  
of all Nations, the Writings look'd upon  
as most *sacred*, were those of their great  
POETS ; whose Works indeed were truly  
*divine*, in respect of *Art*, and *the Per-*

Misc. 5. *fection of their Frame and Composition.*  
 ~~~~~ But there was yet more \* *Divinity* ascrib'd to them, than what is comprehended in this latter Sense. The Notions of vulgar Religion were built on their miraculous Narrations. The wiser and better sort themselves paid a regard to them in this respect; tho they interpreted them indeed more *allegorically*. Even the *Philosophers* who criticiz'd 'em with most Severity, were not their least Admirers; when they † ascrib'd to 'em that divine *Inspiration*, or *sublime ENTHUSIASM*, of which our Author has largely treated ‡ elsewhere.

IT wou'd, indeed, ill become any Pretender to Divine Writing, to publish his Work under a Character of *Divinity*; if, after all his Endeavours, he came short of a *consummate and just Performance*. In this respect the *Cumean SIBYL* was not so indiscreet or frantick, as she might appear, perhaps, by writing her *Prophetick Warnings* and pretended *Inspirations* upon *Joint-Leaves*; which, immediately after their elaborate Superscription, were torn in pieces, and scatter'd by the Wind.

\* *Supra, pag. 153, 154.* in the Notes.

† *VOL. I. pag. 53, 54.*

‡ *Viz.* Letter of Enthusiasm, VOL. I. And above, MISCE. II. chap. 1, 2.

- \* *In sanam vatem aspicies; quæ rupe sub Ch. i.  
imā*  
*Fata canit, foliisque notas & nomina  
mandat.*  
*Quæcunque in foliis descripsit Carmina  
Virgo,*  
*Digerit in numerum, atque antro seclusa  
relinquit.*  
*Illa manent immota locis, neque ab ordine  
cedunt.*  
*Verum eadem, verso tenuis cum cardine  
ventus*  
*Impulit, & teneras turbavit janua fron-  
des:*  
*Nunquam deinde cavo volitantia prendere  
saxo,*  
*Nec revocare situs, aut jungere carmina  
curat.*  
*Inconsulti abeunt, sedemque odere SI-  
BYLLÆ.*

'Twas impossible to disprove the DIVINITY of such Writings, whilst they cou'd be perus'd only in Fragments. Had the Sister-Priestess of DELPHOS, who deliver'd her-self in audible plain Metre, been found at any time to have transgres'd the Rule of Verse, it wou'd have been difficult in those days to father the lame Poetry upon APOLLO himself. But where the Invention of the Leaves prevented the reading of a single Line intire; whatever In-

\* Virg. AEn. lib. iii. 444.

Misc. 5. interpretations might have been made of this  
 ~~ *fragil* and *volatil* Scripture, no Imperfec-  
 tion cou'd be charg'd on the *Original*  
 TEXT it-self.

WHAT those \* Volumes may have been, which the disdainful SIBYL or Prophets committed to the Flames; or what the remainder was, which the *Roman Prince* receiv'd and consecrated; I will not pretend to judg: Tho' it has been admitted for Truth by the antient Christian Fathers, That these Writings were so far sacred and divine, as to have prophesy'd of the Birth of our *religious Founder*, and bore testimony to that *holy Writ* which has preserv'd his Memory, and is justly held, in the highest degree, *sacred* among Christians.

THE Policy however of OLD ROME was such, as not absolutely to rest the Authority of their Religion on any *Composition of Literature*. The SIBYLLINE VOLUMES were kept safely lock'd, and inspected only by such as were ordain'd, or deputed for that purpose. And in this Po-

\* *Libri tres in Sacrarium conditi, Sibyllini appellati. Ad eos quasi ad Oraculum Quindecimviri advunt, cum Dii immortales publicè consulendi sint.* Aul. Gell. lib. i. c. 19. & Plin. lib. xiii. c. 13. But of this first Sibylline Scripture, and of other canoniz'd Books and additional *Sacred Writ* among the ROMANS; see what DIONYSIUS HALICARNASSEUS cites (from VARRO's *Roman Theologicks*) in his History, lib. iv. c. 62.

licy the *New Rome* has follow'd their Ex-Ch. i. ample; in scrupling to annex the supreme Authority and sacred Character of Infallibility to *SCRIPTURE it-self*; and in refusing to submit *that Scripture* to publick Judgment, or to any Eye or Ear but what they qualify for the Inspection of such sacred Mysterys.

THE *Mahometan* Clergy seem to have a different Policy. They boldly rest the Foundation of their Religion on *a Book*: Such a one as (according to their Pretension) is not only perfect, but *inimitable*. Were a real Man of Letters, and a just Critick permitted to examine this *Scripture* by the known Rules of Art; he wou'd soon perhaps refute this Plea. But so barbarous is the accompanying Policy and Temper of these *Eastern* Religionists, that they discourage, and in effect extinguish all true Learning, Science, and the politer Arts, in company with the antient Authors and Languages, which they set aside; and by this infallible Method, leave their SACRED WRIT the sole Standard of literate Performance. For being compar'd to nothing besides it-self, or what is of an inferior kind, it must undoubtedly be thought incomparable.

'TWILL be yielded, surely, to the Honour of the *Christian World*, that their

Misc. 5. *Faith* (especially that of the Protestant  
 ~~~~ Churches) stands on a more generous  
 Foundation. They not only allow *Comparison* of Authors, but are content to derive  
 their Proofs of the Validity of their sa-  
 cred Record and Revelation, even from  
 those Authors call'd *Profane*; as being well  
 appriz'd, according to the Maxim of \* our  
*Divine Master*, " That in what we bear  
 " witness only to our-selves, our Witness  
 " cannot be establish'd as a Truth." So  
 that there being at present no immediate  
 Testimony of *Miracle* or *Sign* in behalf of  
 holy Writ; and there being in its own par-  
 ticular Composition or Style nothing mira-  
 culous, or self-convincing; if the collate-  
 ral Testimony of other antient Records,  
 Historians, and foreign Authors, were de-  
 stroy'd, or wholly lost; there wou'd be less  
 Argument or Plea remaining against that  
 natural Suspicion of those who are call'd  
*Sceptical*, " That the *holy Records* them-  
 " selves were no other than the pure In-  
 " vention or artificial Compilement of an  
 " interested Party, in behalf of the richest  
 " Corporation and most profitable *Monopoly*  
 " which cou'd be erected in the World."

Thus, in reality, the Interest of our  
 pious Clergy is necessarily join'd with that  
 of *antient Letters*, and *polite Learning*.

\* John, chap. v. ver. 31.

By *this* they perpetually refute the crafty Ch. 1. Arguments of those Objectors. When they ~~are~~ abandon *this*; they resign their Cause. When they strike at it; they strike even at the Root and Foundation of our holy *Faith*, and weaken that Pillar on which the whole Fabrick of our *Religion* depends.

IT belongs to mere *Enthusiasts* and *Fanaticks* to plead the Sufficiency of a reiterate translated *Text*, deriv'd to 'em thro' so many Channels, and subjected to so many Variations, of which they are wholly ignorant. Yet wou'd they persuade us, it seems, that from hence alone they can recognize the Divine Spirit, and receive it in themselves, un-subject (as they imagine) to any Rule, and superior to what they themselves often call *the dead Letter*, and *unprofitable Science*.—This, any one may see, is building Castles in the Air, and demolishing them again at pleasure; as the exercise of an aerial *Fancy*, or heated *Imagination*.

BUT the judicious Divines of the establish'd Christian Churches, have sufficiently condemn'd this Manner. They are far from resting their Religion on the common Aspect, or obvious Form of their *vulgar BIBLE*, as it presents it-self in the *printed Copy*, or modern *Version*. Neither do they *in the Original it-self* represent it to us

Misc. 5. us as a very Master-piece of Writing, or  
 as absolutely perfect in the Purity and  
 Justness either of Style, or Composition.  
 They allow the Holy Authors to have  
 written according to their best Facultys,  
 and the Strength of their natural Ge-  
 nius: "A Shepherd like a Shepherd;  
 " and a Prince like a Prince: A Man of  
 " reading, and advanc'd in Letters, like  
 " a Proficient in the kind; and a Man of  
 " meaner Capacity and Reading, like one  
 " of the ordinary sort, in his own com-  
 " mon Idiom, and imperfect manner of  
 " Narration."

'Tis the Substance only of the Nar-  
 rative, and the principal Facts confirming  
 the Authority of the Revelation, which  
 our Divines think themselves concern'd to  
 prove, according to the best Evidence of  
 which the Matter it-self is capable. And  
 whilst the Sacred Authors themselves al-  
 lude not only to the *Annals* and *Historys*  
 of the H E A T H E N *World*, but even to the  
*philosophical* Works, the regular \* Poems,  
 the very Plays and † Comedys of the learn-

\* ARATUS, Acts ch. xvii. ver. 28. And EPIMENIDES, Titus ch. i. ver. 12. Even one of their own PROPHETS. For so the holy Apostle deign'd to speak of a Heathen Poet, a Physiologist, and Divine: who prophesy'd of Events, wrought Miracles, and was receiv'd as an inspir'd Writer, and Author of Revelations, in the chief Citys and States of G R E E C E.

† MENANDER, 1 Cor. ch. xv. ver. 33.

ed and polite Antients; it must be own'd, Ch. 1. that as those antient Writings are impair'd, or lost, not only the *Light* and *Clearness* of holy Writ, but even the *Evidence* itself of its *main Facts*, must in proportion be diminish'd and brought in question. So ill advis'd were \* those devout Churchmen heretofore, who in the height of Zeal

\* Even in the *sixth* Century, the fam'd **GREGORIUS** Bishop of **Rome**, who is so highly celebrated for having planted the Christian Religion, by his Missionary Monks, in our *English* Nation of Heathen *Saxons*, was so far from being a Cultivater or Supporter of Arts or Letters, that he carry'd on a kind of general Massacre upon every Product of human Wit. His own Words in a Letter to one of the French Bishops, a Man of the highest Consideration and Merit, (as a noted modern Critick, and satirical Genius of that Nation acknowledges) are as follow. *Pervenit ad nos quod sine verecundia memorare non possumus, fraternitatem tuam GRAMMATICAM quibusdam exponere. Quam rem ita moleste suscepimus, ac sumus vehementius aspernati, ut ea quae prius dicta fuerunt, in genitum & tristitiamverteremus, quia in uno se ore cum JOVIS laudibus CHRISTI laudes non capiunt.* \* \* \* \* Unde si post hoc evidenter ea quae ad nos perlata sunt, falsa esse claruerint, nec vos NUGIS & SECULARIBUS LITERIS studere contigerit, Deo nostro gratias agimus, qui cor vestrum maculari blasphemis nefandorum laudibus non permisit. **GREGORII** Opera, Epist. 48. lib. ix. Parif. Ann. 1533. And in his Dedication, or first Preface to his Morals, after some very infipid Rhetorick, and figurative Dialect employ'd against the Study and Art of Speech, he has another Fling at the Clasick Authors and Discipline; betraying his inveterate Hatred to antient Learning, as well as the natural Effect of this *Zealot-Passion*, in his own Barbarity both of Style and Manners. His words are, *Unde & ipsam artem loquendi, quam Magisteria Disciplinae exterioris insinuant, servare despici. Nam sicut hujus quoque Epistolæ tenor enunciat, non Metacismi collisionem fugio: non Barbarismi confusione de vita, situs motisque præpositionum casusque servare contemno: quia*

Misc. 5. Zeal did their utmost to destroy all Foot-  
steps of *Heathen Literature*, and consequently all further use of *Learning* or *Antiquity*.

BUT happily the *Zeal* of this kind is now left as proper only to those despis'd and

*quia indignum vehementer existimo, ut verba cœlestis oraculi restringam sub regulis DONATI.* That he carry'd this savage Zeal of his so far as to destroy (what in him lay) the whole Body of *Learning*, with all the *Classick Authors* then in being, was generally believ'd. And (what was yet more notorious and unnatural in a *ROMAN Pontiff*) the Destruction of the *Statues*, *Sculptures*, and finest Pieces of *Antiquity* in *ROME*, was charg'd on him by his Successor in the *SEE*; as, besides *PLATINA*, another Writer of his Life, without the least Apology, confesses. See in the above-cited Edition of St. *GREGORY*'s Works, at the beginning, *viz. Vita D. Gregorii ex Joan. Laziardo Cœlestino.* 'Tis no wonder, therefore, if other Writers have given account of that Sally of the Prelate's Zeal against the *Books* and *Learning* of the *Antients*, for which the Reason alledg'd was very extraordinary; "That the holy Scriptures wou'd be the better relish'd, and receive a considerable Advantage by the Destruction of these Rivals." It seems they had no very high Idea of the *holy Scriptures*, when they suppos'd them such Losers by a Comparison. However, 'twas thought advisable by other *Fathers* (who had a like view) to frame new Pieces of Literature, after the Model of these condemn'd *Antients*. Hence those ridiculous Attempts of new *heroick Poems*, new *Epicks* and *Dramaticks*, new *HOMERS*, *EURIPIDES*'s, *MENANDER*s, which were with so much Pains and so little Effect industriously set afoot by the zealous Priesthood; when Ignorance prevail'd, and the Hierarchal Dominion was so universal. But tho' their Power had well nigh compas'd the Destruction of those great *Originals*, they were far from being able to procure any Reception for their puny *Imitations*. The *Mock-Works* have lain in their deserv'd Obscurity; as will all other Attempts of that kind, concerning which our Author has already given his Opinion,

and ignorant *modern Enthusiasts* we have Ch. I. describ'd. The ROMAN Church it-self is ~~so~~ so recover'd from this primitive *Fanaticism*, that their Great Men, and even their \* *Pontiffs*, are found ready to give their helping Hand, and confer their Bounty liberally towards the advancement of all antient and polite Learning. They justly observe, that their very *Traditions* stand in need of some collateral Proof. The

Opinion, VOL. I. pag. 356, 357, &c. But as to the *ill Policy* as well as *Barbarity* of this *Zealot-Enmity* against the Works of the Antients, a foreign Protestant Divine, and most learned Defender of Religion, making the best Excuse he can for the GREEK-Fathers, and endeavouring to clear them from this general Charge of Havock and Massacre committed upon *Science* and *Erudition*, has these words : " Si  
 " cela est, voilà encore un nouveau Sujet de mépriser les Pa-  
 " triarches de CONSTANTINOPLE qui n'étoient d'ail-  
 " leurs rien moins que gens de bien ; mais j'ai de la peine à le  
 " croire, parce qu'il nous est resté de Poetes infiniment plus  
 " sales que ceux qui se sont perdus. Personne ne doute qu'  
 " ARISTOPHANE ne soit beaucoup plus sale, que n'étoit  
 " MENANDER. PLUTARQUE en est un bon témoin,  
 " dans la Comparaison qu'il a faite de ces deux Poetes. Il peu-  
 " voit être néanmoins arrivé, que quelques ECCLÉSIASTIQUES  
 " ennemis des Belles Lettres, en eussent usé comme  
 " dit CHALCONDYLE, sans penser qu'en conservant toute  
 " l'Antiquité Grecque, ils conserveroient la Langue de leurs Pré-  
 " deceesseurs, & une infinité de Faits qui servoient beaucoup à  
 " l'intelligence & à la confirmation de l'Histoire Sacrée, &  
 " même de la Religion Chretienne. Ces gens-là devoient au  
 " moins nous conserver les Histoires Anciennes des Orientaux,  
 " comme des Chaldéens, des Tyriens, & des Egyptiens ;  
 " mais ils agissoient plus par ignorance & par négligence,  
 " que par raison." BIBL. CHOIS. Tom. XIV. pag.  
 131, 132, 133.

\* Such a one is the present Prince, CLEMENT XI. an Incourager of all Arts and Sciences.

Misc. 5. Conservation of these other antient and disinterested Authors, they wisely judg essential to the Credibility of those principal Facts, on which the whole *religious History* and *Tradition* depend.

'Twou'd indeed be in vain for us, to bring a PONTIUS PILATE into our Creed, and recite what happen'd *under him*, in JUDEA, if we knew not, "Under whom he himself govern'd, whose Authority he had, or what Character he bore, in that remote Country, and amidst a foreign People." In the same manner, 'twou'd be in vain for a ROMAN Pontiff to derive his Title to spiritual Sovereignty from the Seat, Influence, Power, and Donation of the *Roman CÆSARS*, and their Successors; if it appear'd not by any *History*, or *collateral Testimony*, "Who the first CÆSARS were; and how they came possess'd of that universal Power, and long Residence of Dominion."

MY READER doubtless, by this time, must begin to wonder thro' what Labyrinth of Speculation, and odd Texture of capricious Reflections, I am offering to conduct him. But he will not, I presume, be altogether displeas'd with me, when I give him to understand, that being now come into my last MISCELLANY, and being

being sensible of the little Courtship I Ch. 1.  
have paid him, comparatively with what ~~is~~  
is practis'd in that kind by other modern  
Authors; I am willing, by way of Com-  
pensation, to express my *Loyalty* or *Ho-  
mage* towards him, and shew, by my natu-  
ral Sentiments, and Principles, "What  
" particular Deference and high Respect I  
" think to be his *Due*."

THE Issue therefore of this long *Dedu-  
ction* is, in the first place, with due  
Compliments, in my Capacity of *Au-  
thor*, and in the name of all *modest Work-  
men* willingly joining with me in this Re-  
presentation, to congratulate our *English  
READER* on the Establishment of what is  
so advantageous to himself; I mean, that  
mutual *Relation* between him and our-  
selves, which naturally turns so much to his  
Advantage, and makes *us* to be in reality  
the subservient Party. And in this re-  
spect 'tis to be hop'd he will long enjoy  
his just Superiority and Privilege over his  
humble Servants, who compose and la-  
bour for his sake. The *Relation* in all like-  
lihood must still continue, and be improv'd.  
Our common Religion and Christianity,  
founded on *Letters* and *Scripture*, promi-  
ses thus much. Nor is this Hope likely to  
fail us, whilst READERS are really al-  
low'd the Liberty to *read*; that is to say,  
to examine, construe, and remark with *Un-  
derstanding*.

Misc. 5. *derstanding.* LEARNING and SCIENCE  
must of necessity flourish, whilst the Language of the wisest and most learned of Nations is acknowledg'd to contain the principal and essential part of our holy Revelation. And CRITICISM, Examinations, Judgments, literate Labours and Inquirys must still be in Repute and Practice; whilst *Antient Authors*, so necessary to the Support of the Sacred Volumes, are in request, and afford Imployment of such infinite Extent to us *Moderns* of whatever degree, who are desirous to signalize ourselves by any Atchievement in Letters, and be consider'd as the Investigators of Knowledge and Politeness.

I MAY undoubtedly, by virtue of my preceding Argument in behalf of Criticism, be allow'd, without suspicion of Flattery or mere Courtship, to assert the READER's Privilege above the Author; and assign to him, as I have done, the upper Hand, and Place of Honour. As to Fact, we know for certain, that the greatest of Philosophers, the very Founder of Philosophy it-self, was no Author. Nor did the Divine Author, and Founder of our Religion, condescend to be an Author in this other respect. He who cou'd best have given us the History of his own Life, with the intire Sermons and divine Discourses which he made in publick, was pleas'd to leave it

to others, \* “ To take in hand :” As there Ch. I. were many, it seems, long afterwards, who ~~were~~ did; and undertook accordingly “ to write “ in order, and as seem’d good to them, “ for the better Information of particular “ Persons, what was then believ’d among

\* So LUKE, chap. i. ver. 1, 2, 3, 4. “ (1) For as much as MANY have taken in hand to set forth, in order, a Declaration (*Exposition or Narrative, Διηγήσις*) of those things which are most surely believ’d among (or were fulfill’d in, or among) us; (2) Even as they delivei’d them unto us, which from the beginning were Eye-witnesses and Ministers of the Word: (3) It seem’d good to ME also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, (or having look’d back, and search’d accurately into all Matters from the beginning, or highest time, *περικολθυπότι ἀνθεν πάσιν ἀνείλεσ*) to write unto Thee in order, most excellent THEOPHILUS, (4) That Thou mightest know the Certainty (or Validity, sound Discussion, *δοράλειαν*) of those things wherein THOU hast been instructed (or catechiz’d) *αξέι ἐν κατηχήθης.*” Whether the words *πεπληρωθεὶμένων εἰν ἡμῖν*, in the first Verse, shou’d be render’d believ’d among, or fulfill’d in, or among us, may depend on the different reading of the Original. For in some Copys, the *εἰν* next following is left out. However, the exact Interpreters or verbal Translators render it fulfill’d, Vid. Ar. Montan. Edit. Plantin. 1584. In Ver. 4. the word CERTAINTY, *δοράλειαν*, is interpreted *ἀνείλεσ*, Validity, Soundness, good Foundation, from the Sense of the preceding Verse. See the late Edition of our learned Dr. MILL, ex recensione KUSTERI, Rot. 1710. For the word Catechiz’d, *κατηχίδης*, (the last of the fourth Verse) ROB. CONSTANTINE has this Explanation of it: “ Priscis Theologis apud AEGYPTIOS mos erat, ut Mysteria voce tantum, veluti per manus, posteris relinquenter. Apud Christianos, qui Baptismatis erant candidati, iis, vivâ voce, tradebantur fidei Christianæ Mysteria, sine scriptis: quod PAULUS & LUCAS κατηχεῖ vocant. Unde qui docebantur, Catechumeni vocabantur; qui docebant, Catechistæ.”

Misc. 5. " the Initiated or *Catechiz'd*, from *Tradition*, and early *Instruction* in their Youth ;  
 " or what had been transmitted, by Report, from such as were the presum'd  
 " Auditors, and *Eye-witnesses of those things*  
 " in former time."

WHETHER those sacred Books ascrib'd to the *Divine Legislator* of the JEWS, and which treat of his \* Death, Burial, and Succession, as well as of his Life and Actions, are strictly to be understood as coming from the immediate Pen of that *holy Founder*, or rather from some other inspir'd Hand, guided by the same influencing Spirit ; I will not presume so much as to examine or enquire. But in general we find, That both as to publick Concerns, in Religion, and in Philosophy, the great and eminent *Actors* were of a Rank superior to the *Writing-Worthy's*. The great ATHENIAN Legislator, tho noted as a poetical Genius, cannot be esteem'd an *Author*, for the sake of some few Verses he may occasionally have made. Nor was the great SPARTAN Founder, a Poet himself, tho *Author* or *Redeemer* (if I may so express it) to the greatest and best of Poets ; who ow'd in a manner his Form and Being to the accurate Searches and Collections of that great

\* Deut. ch. xxxiv. ver. 5, 6, 7, &c.

*Patron.* The Politicians and civil S<sub>A</sub>-Ch. I. GES, who were fitted in all respects for the great Scene of Busines, cou'd not, it seems, be well taken out of it, to attend the slender and minute Affairs of Letters, and Scholastick Science.

'Tis true, indeed, that without a Capacity for Action, and a Knowledg of the World and Mankind, there can be no Author naturally qualify'd to write with Dignity, or execute any noble or great Design. But there are many, who with the highest Capacity for Busines, are by their Fortune deny'd the Privilege of that higher Sphere. As there are others, who having once mov'd in it, have been afterwards, by many Impediments and Obstructions, necessitated to retire, and exert their Genius in this lower degree.

'Tis to some Catastrophe of this kind that we owe the noblest *Historians* (even the two *Princes* and *Fathers* of History) as well as the greatest *Philosophical Writers*, the *Founder* of the A C A D E M Y, and others, who were also noble in respect of their Birth, and fitted for the highest Stations in the Publick; but discourag'd from engaging in it, on account of some Misfortunes, experienc'd either in their own Persons, or that of their near Friends.

Misc. 5.

~~~ 'Tis to the early Banishment and long Retirement of a heroick Youth out of his native Country, that we owe an original System of Works, the politeſt, wifest, uſe-fulleſt, and (to thoſe who can understand the *Divinenesſ* of a juſt *Simplicity*) the moſt \* *amiable*, and even the moſt elevating and exalting of all un-inspir'd and merely human Authors.

To this Fortune we owe ſome of the greatest of the antient Poets. 'Twas this Chance which produc'd the M U S E of an exalted *Grecian* † *LYRICK*, and of his Follower ‡ *HORACE*; whose Character, tho' eaſy to be gather'd from History, and his own Works, is little obſerv'd by any of his Commentators: The general Idea, conceiv'd of him, being drawn chiefly from his precarious and low Circumstances at Court, after the forfeiture of his Estate, under the Usurpation and Con-

\* Τὸν ἥδισον καὶ χαρίεσσαν Εὐφρόνια, as *Athenaeus* calls him, lib. xi. See V O L. I. pag. 255.

† *Et te ſonantem plenius aureo,*  
*ALCÆ E, plectro dura navis,*  
*Dura fugæ mala, dura belli.*

Horat. Lib. ii. Od. xiii. ver. 26.

‡ —— *Age, dic Latinum,*  
*Barbite, carmen.*  
*Lesbio primum modulate Civi;*  
*Qui ferox bello, &c.*

Horat. Lib. i. Od. xxxii. ver. 3.

quest

quest of an **OCTAVIUS**, and the Ministry Ch. i.  
of a **MÆCENAS**; not from his better Condition,  
and nobler Employments in earlier days, under the Favour and Friendship  
of greater and better Men, whilst the *Roman State* and Liberty subsisted. For of this Change he himself, as great a Courtier as he seem'd afterwards, gives sufficient  
\* Intimation.

## LET

\* *Dura sed amovere loco me tempora grato,  
Civilisque rudem belli tulit æstus in arma,  
Cæsaris Augusti non responsura lacertis.  
Unde simul primum me dimisere Philippi,  
Decisis humilem pennis, inopemque paterni  
Et laris Æ fundi, paupertas impulit audax:  
Ut versus facerem.*

Horat. Lib. ii. Epist. ii. ver. 46.

*Quod mibi pareret Legio Romana Tribuno.*

Lib. i. Sat. vi. ver. 47.

Viz. under **BRUTUS**. Whence again that natural Boast :  
*Me primis urbis BELLI placuisse Domine.*

Lib. i. Epist. xx. ver. 23.

And again,

*Cum MAGNIS vixisse invita fatebitur usque  
Invidia.* Lib. ii. Sat. i. ver. 77.

Where the *vixisse* shews plainly whom he principally meant by his **MAGNI**, his *early* Patrons and Great Men in the State : His Apology and Defense here (as well as in his fourth and sixth Satirs of his first Book, and his 2d Epistle of his second, and elsewhere) being supported still by the open and bold Assertion of his good Education, (equal to the highest Senators, and under the best Masters) his Employments at home and abroad, and his *early* Commerce and Familiarity with former Great Men, before these his new Friendships, and this latter Court-Acquaintance, which was now envy'd him by his Adversaries.

*NUNC quia Mæcenas, tibi sum convictor: at OLIM  
Quod mibi pareret Legio Romana Tribuno.*

Misc. 5.

LET AUTHORS therefore know themselves; and tho' conscious of Worth, Virtue, and a Genius, such as may justly place them above Flattery or mean Courtship to their READER; yet let them reflect, that as Authors merely, they are but of the second Rank of Men. And let the READER withal consider, " That when  
 " he unworthily resigns the place of Ho-  
 " nour, and surrenders his Taste, or Judg-  
 " ment, to an Author of ever so great a  
 " Name, or venerable Antiquity, and not  
 " to Reason, and Truth, at whatever ha-

The Reproach now was with respect to a MÆCENAS or AUGUSTUS. 'Twas the same formerly with respect to a BRUTUS, and those who were then the principal and leading Men. The Complaint or Murmur against him on account of his being an *Upstart* or *Favourite* under a MÆCENAS and AUGUSTUS, cou'd not be answer'd, by a *Vixiss* relating to the same Persons; any more than his *Placuisse*, join'd with his *BELLI Domique*, cou'd relate to those under whom he never went to War, nor wou'd ever consent to bear any Honours. For so he himself distinguishes (Sat. vi. to MÆCENAS)

— *Quia non ut forsitan honorem  
 Fure mibi invicat quivis, ita te quoque amicum.* ver. 49.

He was formerly an Actor, and in the Ministry of Affairs: Now only a FRIEND to a Minister: Himself still a private and retir'd Man. That he refus'd AUGUSTUS's Offer of the Secretary-ship, is well known. But in these Circumstances, the Politeness as well as Artifice of HORACE is admirable; in making *Futurity* or *Poverty* to be the speaking Party in both those places, where he suggests his Intimacy and Favour with the Great, that there might, in some measure, be room left (tho' in strictness there was scarce any) for an OCTAVIUS and a MÆCENAS to be included. See VOL. I. pag. 269, 270. in the Notes.

" zard;

“ zard ; he not only betrays *himself*, but Ch. 1.  
“ withal the *common Cause* of AUTHOR ~~~~~  
“ and READER, the Interest of *Letters*  
“ and *Knowledg*, and the chief *Liberty*,  
“ *Privilege*, and *Prerogative* of the rational  
“ part of Mankind.”

‘T IS related in History of the CAPPADOCIANS, That being offer’d their *Liberty* by the ROMANS, and permitted to govern themselves by their own Laws and Constitutions, they were much terrify’d at the Proposal ; and as if some sore harm had been intended ‘em, humbly made it their Request, “ That they might be govern’d by arbitrary Power, and that an absolute Governour might without delay be appointed over ‘em at the discretion of the ROMANS.” For such was their Disposition towards mere *Slavery* and *Subjection* ; that they dar’d not pretend so much as to *chuse* their own MASTER. So essential they thought SLAVERY, and so divine a thing the *Right of Mastership*, that they dar’d not be so *free* even as to presume to give themselves that Blessing, which they chose to leave rather to Providence, Fortune, or A CONQUEROR, to bestow upon them. They dar’d not make a King ; but wou’d rather take one from their powerful Neighbours. Had they been necessitated to come to an *Election*, the Horror of such a Use of

Misc. 5. Liberty in Government, wou'd perhaps have determin'd 'em to chuse *blindfold*, or leave it to the Decision of the com-monest *Lot*, Cast of Dye, *Cross* or *Pile*, or whatever it were which might best enable them to clear themselves of the heinous Charge of using the least Fore-sight, Choice, or Prudence in such an Affair.

I shou'd think it a great Misfortune, were my READER of the number of those, who in a kind of *Cappadocian* Spirit, cou'd easily be terrify'd with the Propo-sal of giving him his *Liberty*, and making him *his own Judg.* My Endeavour, I must confess, has been to shew him his just Pre-rogative in this respect, and to give him the sharpest Eye over his *Auktor*, invite him to criticize honestly, without favour or affection, and with the utmost Bent of his Parts and Judgment. On this ac-count it may be objected to me, perhaps,  
" That I am not a little vain and pre-  
" sumptuous, in my *own* as well as in my  
" *Auktor's* behalf, who can thus, as it  
" were, challenge my *Reader* to a Trial  
" of his keenest Wit."

BUT to this I answer, That shou'd I have the good fortune to raise the masterly Spirit of *just CRITICISM* in my Readers, and exalt them ever so little above

the lazy, timorous, over-modest, or re-Ch. 1.  
sign'd State, in which the generality of the  
them remain; tho by this very Spirit, I  
*my-self* might possibly meet my Doom:  
I shou'd however abundantly congratulate  
with my-self on these my low Flights, be  
proud of having plum'd the Arrows of bet-  
ter *Wits*, and furnish'd Artillery, or Am-  
munition of any kind, to those Powers, to  
which I *my-self* had fall'n a Victim.

\*—*Fungar vice Cotis.*—

I COULD reconcile my Ambition in this respect to what I call my *Loyalty to the READER*; and say of his Elevation in Criticism and Judgment, what a *Roman Princess* said of her Son's Advancement to Empire, “*† Occidat, dum imperet.*”

HAD I been a *Spanish CERVANTES*, and with success equal to that comick Author, had destroy'd the reigning Taste of *Gothick or Moorish CHIVALRY*, I cou'd afterwards contentedly have seen my *Burlesque-Work* it-self despis'd, and set aside; when it had wrought its intended effect, and destroy'd those *Giants* and *Monsters* of the Brain, against which it was originally design'd. Without regard, therefore, to the prevailing *Relish* or *Taste* which, in

\* Horat. de Arte Poet. ver. 304.

† Tacit. Annal. lib. xiv. cap. 9.

my

Misc. 5. my own Person, I may unhappily experience, when these my Miscellaneous Works are leisurely examin'd; I shall proceed still in my Endeavour to refine my Reader's PALATE; *whetting* and *sharpening* it, the best I can, for Use, and Practice, in the lower Subjects: that by this Exercise it may acquire the greater Keennes, and be of so much the better effect in Subjects of a higher kind, which relate to his chief Happiness, his *Liberty* and *Manhood*.

SUPPOSING me therefore a mere *comick* Humourist, in respect of those inferior Subjects, which after the manner of my familiar *Profe-Satir* I presume to criticize; May not I be allow'd to ask, "Whether " there remains not still among us noble " BRITONS, something of that original " Barbarous and Gothick Relish, not whol- " ly purg'd away; when, even at this hour, " Romances and Gallantrys of like fort, " together with Works as monstrous of o- " ther kinds, are current, and in vogue, even " with the People who constitute our re- " puted *polite World?*" Need I on this ac- count refer again to our \* Author, where he treats in general of the *Style* and *Manner* of our *modern Authors*, from the *Divine* to the *Comedian*? What Person is there of the

\* *Viz.* In his *Advice to Authors*, Treatise III. VOL. I.

least Judgment or Understanding, who can-Ch. 1.  
not easily, and without the help of a *Dive* ~~~  
*Moralist*, observe the lame  
Condition of our *English STAGE*; which  
nevertheless is found the Rendevouz and  
chief Entertainment of our best Company,  
and from whence in all probability our  
Youth will continue to draw their Notion  
of *Manners*, and their Taste of *Life*, more  
directly and naturally, than from the *Re-*  
*hearsals* and *Declamations* of a graver  
THEATER?

LET those whose busines it is, advance,  
as they best can, the Benefit of that *sacred*  
*Oratory*, which we have lately seen and  
are still like to see employ'd to various pur-  
poses, and further designs than that of in-  
structing us in Religion or Manners. Let  
'em in that high *Scene* endeavour to refine  
our Taste and Judgment in sacred Matters.  
'Tis the good *Critick's* Task to amend our  
*common STAGE*; nor ought this *Drama-*  
*tick Performance* to be decry'd or sen-  
tenc'd by those Criticks of a higher Sphere.  
The Practice and *Art* is honest, in it-self.  
Our *Foundations* are well laid. And in the  
main, our *English STAGE* (as \* has been  
remark'd) is capable of the highest Im-  
provement; as well from the present Ge-  
nius of our Nation, as from the rich Oar

\* VOL. I. pag. 217, &c. 223, 259, 275, 276.

of

Misc. 5. of our early Poets in this kind. But *Faults*  
 ↵ are easier imitated than *Beautys.*

WE find, indeed, our THEATER become of late the Subject of a growing Criticism. We hear it openly complain'd,  
 " That in our *newer* Plays as well as in  
 " our *older*, in *Comedy* as well as *Tragedy*, the Stage presents a proper Scene of  
 " Uproar; —— Duels fought; Swords  
 " drawn, many of a fide; Wounds given,  
 " and sometimes dress'd too; the Surgeon  
 " call'd, and the Patient prob'd and tented  
 " upon the Spot. That in our *Tragedy*,  
 " nothing is so common as Wheels, Racks,  
 " and Gibbets properly adorn'd; Execu-  
 " tions decently perform'd; Headless Bo-  
 " dys and Bodiless Heads, expos'd to view:  
 " Battels fought: Murders committed:  
 " and the Dead carry'd off in great Num-  
 " bers." — Such is our Politeness!

NOR are these *Plays*, on this account, the less frequented by either of the Sexes: Which inclines me to favour the Conceit our \* Author has suggested concerning the mutual Correspondence and Relation between our *Royal THEATER*, and *Popular CIRCUS* or *Bear-Garden*. For in the former of these Assemblys, 'tis undeniable that at least the *two upper Regions or Gallerys*

\* VOL. I. pag. 270, &c.

contain such Spectators, as indifferently frequent each Place of Sport. So that 'tis no wonder we hear such Applause resounded on the Victorys of an ALMANZOR ; when the same Partys had possibly, no later than the Day before, bestow'd their Applause as freely on the *victorious Butcher*, the HERO of another Stage : where amidst various Frays, bestial and human Blood, promiscuous Wounds and Slaughter ; one Sex are observ'd as frequent and as pleas'd Spectators as the other, and sometimes not Spectators only, but Actors in the Gladiatorian Parts.

— These Congregations, which we may be apt to call *Heathenish* \*, (tho in reality never known among the *politer Heathens*) are, in our *Christian Nation*, unconcernedly allow'd and tolerated, as no way injurious to religious Interests ; whatever effect they may be found to have on *national Manners, Humanity, and Civil Life*. Of such Indulgencys as these, we hear no Complaints. Nor are any *Assemblys*, tho of the most *barbarous* and *enormous* kind, so offensive, it seems, to *Men of Zeal*, as *religious Assemblys* of a different Fashion or Habit from their own.

I AM sorry to say, that, tho in the many parts of *Poetry* our Attempts have been high and noble, yet in general the

\* VOL. I. pag. 269, &c.

Misc. 5. T A S T E of *Wit* and *Letters* lies much up-  
 ~~~~ on a level with what relates to our Stage.

I CAN readily allow to our BRITISH  
*Genius* what was allow'd to the ROMAN  
 heretofore :

\* ————— *Naturâ sublimis & acer:*  
*Nam spirat Tragicum satis, & feliciter audet.*

But then I must add too, that the excessive Indulgence and Favour shown to our *Authors*, on account of what their mere *Genius* and flowing Vein afford, has render'd them intolerably supine, conceited, and Admirers of themselves. The Publick having once suffer'd 'em to take the ascendent, they become, like flatter'd Princes, impatient of Contradiction or Advice. They think it a disgrace to be criticiz'd, even by a *Friend*; or to reform, at his desire, what they themselves are fully convinc'd is negligent, and uncorrect.

† *Sed turpem putat in scriptis, metuitque Lituram.*

The † *Limæ Labor* is the great Grievance, with our Country-men. An *English Author* wou'd be all *GENIUS*. He wou'd

\* Horat. Lib. ii. Epist. i. ver. 165.

† Ibid. † *Ars Poet.*

reap the *Fruits* of Art; but without Study, Pains, or Application. He thinks it necessary, indeed, (lest his Learning shou'd be call'd in question) to show the World that he errs *knowingly* against the Rules of Art. And for this reason, whatever Piece he publishes at any time, he seldom fails, in some prefix'd Apology, to speak in such a manner of *Criticism* and *Art*, as may confound the ordinary Reader, and prevent him from taking up a *Part*, which, shou'd he once assume, wou'd prove fatal to the impotent and mean Performance.

'T WERE to be wish'd, that when once our Authors had consider'd of a *Model* or *Plan*, and attain'd the Knowledg of a \* **W H O L E** and **P A R T S**; when from this begin-

\* "Ο Λ Ο Ν δέ ἐστι τὸ ἔχον αρχὴν καὶ μέσον καὶ τελευτήν.  
Αρχὴ δέ ἐστιν, ὃ αὐτὸς μὲν ἡξεῖται, μὴν μετ' ἄλλο ἐστί· μετ' ἔκεινον δέ ἔτειχεν πέφυκεν εἴρατο, ἢ γένεδαι. Τελευτὴ δέ τελευτὴν, ὃ αὐτὸς μετ' ἄλλο πέφυκεν εἴρατο, ἢ ἡξεῖται, ἢ ὡς ἐπιβοπολύ· μετὰ δὲ τόπον ἄλλο ἐδέν. Μέσον δέ, καὶ αὐτὸς μετ' ἄλλο, καὶ μετ' ἔκεινον ἔτειχεν. Arist. de Poet. cap. 7. And in the following Chapter, Μῦθος δέ ἐστιν ΕΙΣ, ἐγώσπες πνὲς οἰονται, εὖν τελευτὴν, &c.

*Denique si quod vis simplex duntaxat ET UNUM.*

Horat. de Arte Poet. ver. 23. See VOL. I. p. 145, 146.

'Tis an infallible proof of the want of just *Integrity* in every Writing, from the *Epopee* or *Heroick-Poem*, down to the familiar Epistle, or slightest Essay either in *Verse* or *Prose*, if each several Part or Portion fits not its proper place so exactly, that the least Transposition wou'd be impracticable. Whatever is *Episodic*, tho' perhaps it be a *Whole*, and in itself *intire*, yet being inserted, as a *Part*, in a Work of greater

Misc. 5. beginning they had proceeded to *Morals*, and the Knowldg of what is call'd  
 \* POETICK MANNERS, and TRUTH; when

greater length, it must appear only in its *due Place*. And that Place alone can be call'd its *due-one*, which alone befits it. If there be any Passage in the Middle or End, which might have stood in the Beginning; or any in the Beginning, which might have stood as well in the Middle or End; there is properly in such a Piece neither Beginning, Middle, nor End. 'Tis a mere *Rhapsody*; not a Work. And the more it assumes the Air or Appearance of a *real Work*, the more ridiculous it becomes. See above, pag. 25. And VOL. I. pag. 145, 146.

\* *Respicere exemplar vite morumque jubebo  
Doctum Imitatorem, & VERAS hinc ducere voces.*

Horat. de Arte Poet. ver. 317.

The Chief of antient Criticks, we know, extols HOMER, above all things, for understanding how “ *To LY' E in perfection:*” as the Passage shews which we have cited above, VOL. I. pag. 346. His LY' E S, according to that Master's Opinion, and the Judgment of many of the gravest and most venerable Writers, were, in themselves, the justest Moral Truths, and exhibitive of the best Doctrine and Instruction in Life and Manners. It may be ask'd perhaps, “ How comes the Poet, then, to draw no single Pattern of the kind, no perfect Character, in either of his Heroick Pieces?” I answer, that shou'd he attempt to do it, he wou'd, as a Poet, be preposterous and false. 'Tis not the *Possible*, but the *Probable* and *Likely*, which must be the Poet's Guide in Manners. By this he wins Attention, and moves the conscious Reader or Spectator; who judges best from *within*, by what he naturally feels and experiences in his own Heart. The Perfection of Virtue is from long *Art* and *Management*, *Self-control*, and, as it were, *Force on Nature*. But the common Auditor or Spectator, who seeks Pleasure only, and loves to engage his Passion, by view of other Passion and Emotion, comprehends little of the Restraints, Allays and Corrections, which form this *new and artificial Creature*. For such indeed is the truly virtuous Man; whose ART, tho ever so natural in it-self,

when they had learnt to reject *false* Ch. 1.  
*Thought*, embarrassing and mix'd *Metaphors*, the ridiculous *Paint* in Comedy,  
and

it-self, or justly founded in *Reason* and *Nature*, is an Improvement far beyond the common Stamp, or known Character of Human Kind. And thus the compleatly virtuous and perfect Character is *unpoetical* and *false*. Effects must not appear, where Causes must necessarily remain unknown and incomprehensible. A HERO without *Passion*, is, in Poetry, as absurd as a HERO without *Life* or *Action*. Now if *Passion* be allow'd, *passionate Action* must ensue. The same Heroick Genius and seeming Magnanimity which transport us when beheld, are naturally transporting in the Lives and Manners of the Great, who are describ'd to us. And thus the able *Designer*, who feigns in behalf of *Truth*, and draws his Characters after the *Moral Rule*, fails not to discover Nature's Propensity; and assigns to these high Spirits their proper Exorbitancy, and Inclination to exceed in that Tone or Species of *Passion*; which constitutes the eminent or shining part of each poetical Character. The Passion of an *ACHILLES* is towards that Glory which is acquir'd by Arms and personal Valour. In favour of this Character, we forgive the generous Youth his Excess of Ardor in the Field, and his Resentment when injur'd and provok'd in Council, and by his Allies. The Passion of an *ULYSSES* is towards that Glory which is acquir'd by Prudence, Wisdom, and Ability in Affairs. 'Tis in favour of this Character that we forgive him his subtle, crafty, and deceitful Air: since the *intriguing Spirit*, the *over-reaching Manner*; and *Over-refinement of Art and Policy*; are as naturally incident to the experienc'd and thorow Politician, as *sudden Resentment*, *in-discreet and rash Behaviour*, to the open undefining Character of a warlike Youth. The gigantick Force and military Toil of an *AJAX* wou'd not be so easily credible, or engaging, but for the honest Simplicity of his Nature; and the Heaviness of his Parts and Genius. For Strength of Body being so often noted by us, as un-attended with equal Parts and Strength of Mind; when we see this natural Effect express'd, and find our secret and malicious kind of Reasoning confirm'd, on this hand; we yield to any *Hyperbole* of our Poet, on the other. He has afterwards his full Scope, and

Misc. 5. and the *false Sublime*, and *Bombast* in  
 Heroick; they wou'd at last have some  
 regard to Numbers, Harmony, and *an Ear*;

Liberty of enlarging, and exceeding, in the peculiar Virtue and Excellence of his Hero. He may *ye* splendidly, raise *wonder*, and be as *astonishing* as he pleases. Every thing will be allow'd him in return for this frank Allowance. Thus the Tongue of a *NESTOR* may work Prodigys, whilst the accompanying Allays of a rhetorical Fluency, and aged Experience, are kept in view. An *AGAMEMNON* may be admir'd as a noble and wise Chief, whilst a certain princely Haughtinels, a Stiffnels, and stately Carriage natural to the Character, are represented in his Person, and noted in their ill Effects. For thus the *Excesses* of every Character are by the Poet *redress'd*. And the Misfortunes naturally attending such Excesses, being justly apply'd; our Passions, whilst in the strongest manner engag'd and mov'd, are in the wholesomest and most effectual manner corrected and *purg'd*. Were a Man to form himself by one single Pattern or Original, however perfect; he wou'd himself be a mere *Copy*. But whilst he draws from various Models, he is *original*, *natural*, and *unaffected*. We see in outward Carriage and Behaviour, how ridiculous any one becomes who imitates another, be he ever so graceful. They are mean Spirits who love to copy *merely*. Nothing is agreeable or natural, but what is *original*. Our Manners, like our Faces, tho' ever so beautiful, must differ in their Beauty. An Over-regularity is next to a Deformity. And in a Poem, whether *Epick* or *Dramatick*, a compleat and *perfect Character* is the greatest *Monster*; and of all poetick Fictions not only the least *engaging*, but the least *moral* and *improving*.—Thus much by way of Remark upon *poetical TRUTH*, and the just Fiction, or artful *Lying* of the able Poet; according to the Judgment of the *Master-Critick*. What *HORACE* expresses of the same *Lying Virtue*, is of an easier sense, and needs no explanation.

*Atque ita mentitur, sic veris falsa remiscat;  
 Primo ne medium, medio ne discrepet imum.*

De Arte Poet. ver. 152.

\* Ear; and correct, as far as possible, the Ch. i.  
harsh Sounds of our Language, in Poetry ~~W~~  
at least; if not in Prose.

BUT so much are our British Poets taken up, in seeking out that monstrous Ornament which we call + Rhyme, that 'tis  
no

The same may be observ'd not only in Heroick Draughts, but  
in the inferior Characters of Comedy.

*Quād similis uterque est sui!*

Ter. Phorm. Act. iii. Sc. 2.

See VOL. I. pag. 4, 142, 143, 337, & 351. in the Notes,  
at the end.

\* VOL. I. pag. 217.

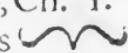
+ The Reader, if curious in these matters, may see Is. Vossius de viribus Rhythmi; and what he says, withal, of antient Musick, and the degrees by which they surpass us Moderns, (as has been demonstrated by late Mathematicians of our Nation) contrary to a ridiculous Notion some have had, that because in this, as in all other Arts, the Antients study'd Simplicity, and affected it as the highest Perfection in their Performances, they were therefore ignorant of Parts and Symphony. Against this, Is. Vossius, amongst other Authors, cites the antient Peripatetick Κόσμος at the beginning of his fifth Chapter. To which he might have added another Passage in Chap. 6. The Sutableness of this antient Author's Thought to what has been often advanc'd in the philosophical Parts of these Volumes, concerning the universal Symmetry, or Union of the Whole, may make it excusable if we add here the two Passages together, in their inimitable Original. "Ισως δὲ καὶ τῇ ἐναντίῳ οὐ φύσις γλίχεται, καὶ ἐκ τέτον ἀποτελεῖν τὸ σύμφωνον, ἐκ τῇ δημοίων ὥσπερ ἀμέλει τὸ ἄρρεν συνήμετε περὶ τὸ Θηλαν, καὶ εὖχε τερεψον περὶ τὸ ὅμοσφυλον, καὶ τὸν περὶ τὸν ὅμοσφυλον διὰ τῇ ἐναντίων συνῆμεν, εὖχε τὴν δημοίων. Εοικε δὲ καὶ τέχνη τὸν φύσιν μηδικέντη, τῷτο ποιεῖν. Ζωγραφία μὲν γάρ, λευκῶν τε καὶ μελάνων, αἰχμῶν τε καὶ ἔρυθρῶν χρωμάτων εγκερδοπλένη φύσεις, τὰς εἰκόνας τοῖς περιηγημένοις ἀπτέλεσε συμφώνεις. Μετοικὸν δὲ, δηξεῖς ἄμα καὶ βαρεῖς, μακρές τε καὶ βελαχές φθόγγος μίζασσι, ἐν διαφόρεσι φωναῖς,

Misc. 5. no wonder if other Ornaments, and *real*  
 ~~ *Graces* are unthought of, and left un-attempted. However, since in some Parts  
 of Poetry, especially in the *Dramatick*, we have been so happy as to triumph  
 over this barbarous Taste; 'tis unaccountable that our *Poets*, who from this Privilege  
 ought to undertake some further Refinements, shou'd remain still upon the same level as before. 'Tis a shame to our *Authors*, that in their elegant Style and *metred Prose* there shou'd not be found a peculiar Grace and Harmony, resulting from a more natural and easy Disengagement of their Periods, and from a careful avoiding the Encounter of the shocking Consonants and jarring Sounds to which our Language is so unfortunately subject.

THEY have of late, 'tis true, reform'd in some measure the gouty Joints and

μίαν ἀπολέσεν ἀρμονίαν. Γραμματικὴ δὲ, ἐκ φωνέων καὶ ἀνώνων γραμμάτων καζίσον ποιησαμένη, τὴν δὲν τέχνην απ' ἀντὸν συεσήσασθαι. Τ' αὐτὸν δὲ τέτοιην καὶ τὸ ψῆφος τὸ σκολεικὸν λεγόμενον Ἡεραλέιτω. συνάντεταις δὲλα καὶ ἔχει δέλα, συμφερόμενον καὶ διαφερόμενον, συνάδον καὶ διάδον, καὶ ἐκ παντῶν ἐν, καὶ ἐξ ἑνὸς παντα. And in the following Passage, Μία δὲ ἐκ παντῶν ἀρμονία συναδήνησαν καὶ χρησύνησαν κατὰ τὸ ἔργαντα, ἐξ ἑνὸς τε γίνεσθαι, καὶ εἰς ἐν ἀπολύτης. Κόσμον δὲ ἐπύμως τὸ σύμπτων, ἀλλ' ἐχει δικορμίαν ὄνομασσαι ἀν. Καθόπιπρος δὲ ἐν Χορῷ κορυφαῖς κατέβανθι, συνεπιχεῖς πᾶς δὲ χορὸς ἀνδρῶν, καὶ ὅτε καὶ γυναικῶν, ἐν διαφόροις φωναῖς ὁξυτέραις καὶ βαρύτεραις, μίαν ἀρμονίαν ἐμψελῆ κεραυνήσαν, οὗτος ἔχει καὶ ἐπὶ τῷ τὸ σύμπτων διέπονθι ΘΕΟΥ. See VOL. II. pag. 214. And above, pag. 182, 3, 4, 5. in the Notes.

Darning-

Darning-work of *Whereto's*, *Whereby's*, Ch. 1.  
*Thereof's*, *Therewith's*, and the rest of this  kind; by which, complicated Periods are so curiously strung, or hook'd on, one to another, after the long-spun manner of the *Bar*, or *Pulpit*. But to take into consideration no real Accent, or Cadency of Words, no Sound or Measure of Syllables; to put together, at one time, a Set of Compounds, of the longest *Greek* or *Latin* Termination; and at another, to let whole Verses, and those too of our heroick and longest sort, pass currently in *Monosyllables*; is, methinks, no slender Negligence. If single Verses at the head, or in the most emphatical places, of the most considerable Works, can admit of such a Structure, and pass for truly harmonious and poetical in this negligent form; I see no reason why more Verses than one or two, of the same formation, shou'd not be as well admitted; or why an un-interrupted Succession of these well-strung *Monosyllables* might not be allow'd to clatter after one another, like the Hammers of a Paper-Mill, without any breach of Musick, or prejudice to the Harmony of our Language. But if Persons who have gone no farther than a Smith's Anvil to gain *an Ear*, are yet likely, on fair trial, to find a plain defect in these *Ten-Monosyllable Heroicks*; it wou'd follow, methinks, that even a *Prose-Author*, who attempts to write politely,

Misc. 5. shou'd endeavour to confine himself within  
those Bounds, which can never, without  
breach of Harmony, be exceeded in any  
just Metre, or agreeable Pronunciation.

THUS HAVE I ventur'd to arraign the Authority of those self-privileg'd Writers, who wou'd exempt themselves from *Criticism*, and save their ill-acquir'd Reputation, by the Decrial of an *Art*, on which the Cause and Interest of *Wit* and *Letters* absolutely depend. Be it they themselves, or their great Patrons in their behalf, who wou'd thus arbitrarily support the Credit of ill Writings; the Attempt, I hope, will prove unsuccessful. Be they Moderns or Antients, Foreigners or Natives, ponderous and austere Writers, or airy and of the humorous kind: Whoever takes refuge here, or seeks Protection hence; whoever joins his Party or Interest to this Cause; it appears from the very Fact and Endeavour alone, that there is just ground to suspect some Insufficiency or Imposture at the bottom. And on this account the READER, if he be wise, will the rather redouble his Application and Industry, to examine the Merit of his assuming Author. If, as Reader, and *Judg*, he dares once assert that *Liberty* to which we have shewn him justly intitled; he will not easily be threaten'd or ridicul'd out of the

the use of his *examining Capacity*, and native *Privilege of CRITICISM*. Ch. 1. 

'TWAS to this *Art*, so well understood and practis'd heretofore, that the wise Antients ow'd whatever was consummate and perfect in their Productions. 'Tis to the same *Art* we owe the Recovery of Letters in these latter Ages. To this alone we must ascribe the Recognition of antient Manuscripts, the Discovery of what is spurious, and the Discernment of whatever is genuine of those venerable Remains which have pass'd thro' such dark Periods of Ignorance, and rais'd us to the Improvements we now make in every Science. 'Tis to this *Art*, that even the *Sacred Authors* themselves owe their highest Purity and Correctness. So *sacred* ought the *Art* itself to be esteem'd; when from its Supplies alone is form'd that judicious and learned Strength, by which the Defenders of our Holy Religion are able so successfully to refute the *Heathens*, *Jews*, *Sectarians*, *Heretics*, and other Enemys or Opposers of our primitive and antient Faith.

BUT having thus, after our Author's example, asserted the Use of CRITICISM, in all literate Works, from the main *Frame*, or *Plan* of every Writing, down to the minutest *Particle*; we may now proceed to exercise this *Art* upon our Author himself,

Misc. 5. and by his own Rules examine him in this  
UW his last Treatise ; reserving still to our-selves  
the same Privilege of Variation, and Excursion  
into other Subjects, the same *Episodick*  
Liberty, and Right of wandering, which  
we have maintain'd in the preceding Chap-  
ters.

## C H A P. II.

*Generation and Succession of our national and modern Wit.—Manners of the Proprietors.—Corporation and Joint-Stock—Statute against Criticism. A Coffee-House Committee.—Mr. BAYS.—Other BAYS's in Divinity.—Censure of our Author's Dialogue-Piece; and of the Manner of Dialogue-Writing, us'd by Reverend Wits.*

ACCORDING to the common Course of Practice in our Age, we seldom see the Character of *Writer* and that of *Critick* united in the same Person. There is, I know, a certain Species of *Authors*, who subsist wholly by the *criticizing* or *commenting* Practice upon others, and can appear in no other Form besides what this Employment authorizes them to assume. They have no *original* Character, or *first* Part; but wait for something which may be call'd *a Work*, in order to graft upon it, and come in, for Sharers, at second hand.

THE

Misc. 5.

THE Pen-men of this Capacity and Degree are, from their Function and Employment, distinguish'd by the Title of ANSWERERS. For it happens in the World, that there are Readers of a Genius and Size just fitted to these *answering* Authors. These, if they teach 'em nothing else, will teach 'em, they think, to *criticize*. And tho' the new practising Criticks are of a sort unlikely ever to understand any *original Book* or *Writing*; they can understand, or at least remember, and quote the subsequent Reflections, Flouts, and Jeers, which may accidentally be made on such a Piece. Where-ever a Gentleman of this fort happens, at any time, to be in company, you shall no sooner hear a new Book spoken of, than 'twill be ask'd, "Who has answer'd it?" or "When is there an Answer to come out?" — Now the *Answer*, as our Gentleman knows, must needs be newer than the *Book*. And the *newer* a thing is, the more fashionable still, and the genteeler the Subject of Discourse. For this the Bookseller knows how to fit our Gentleman to a nicety: For he has commonly an *Answer* ready bespoke, and perhaps finish'd, by the time his *new Book* comes abroad. And 'tis odds but our fashionable Gentleman, who takes both together, may read the *latter* first, and drop the other for good and all.

BUT

BUT of these *answering WITS*, and the manner of *Rejoinders*, and reiterate *Replies*, we have said what is sufficient \* in a former MISCELLANY. We need only remark in general, “ That ‘tis necessary a “ writing CRITICK shou’d understand “ how to write. And tho every Writer is “ not bound to shew himself in the capa-“ city of CRITICK, every writing Cri-“ tick is bound to shew himself capable of “ being a WRITER. For if he be appa-“ rently impotent in this latter kind, he is “ to be deny’d all Title or Character in “ the other.”

To censure merely what another Person writes ; to *twitch, snap, snub up, or banter* ; to torture *Sentences* and *Phrases*, turn a few Expressions into Ridicule, or write what is now-a-days call’d an *Answer* to any Piece, is not sufficient to constitute what is properly esteem’d a WRITER, or AUTHOR, in due form. For this reason, tho there are many ANSWERERS seen abroad, there are few or no CRITICKS or SATIRISTS. But whatever may be the State of Controversy in our Religion, or politick Concerns ; ’tis certain that in the mere literate World, Affairs are manag’d with a better Understanding between the

\* Viz. *Supra*, MISC. I. chap. 2.

Misc. 5. principal Partys concern'd. The WRITERS or AUTHORS in possession have an easier time than any Ministry; or religious Party, which is uppermost. They have found a way, by decrying all CRITICISM in general, to get rid of their Dissenters, and prevent all Pretences to further Reformation in their State. The CRITICK is made to appear distinct, and of another Species; wholly different from the Writer. None who have a GENIUS for Writing, and can perform with any Success, are presum'd so ill-natur'd or illiberal as to endeavour to signalize themselves in CRITICISM.

'T IS not difficult, however, to imagine why this practical Difference between Writer and Critick has been so generally establish'd amongst us, as to make the Provinces seem wholly distinct, and irreconcilable. The forward WITS, who without waiting their due time, or performing their requisite Studys, start up in the World as AUTHORS, having with little Pains or Judgment, and by the strength of Fancy merely, acquir'd a Name with Mankind, can on no account afterwards submit to a Decrival or Disparagement of those raw Works, to which they ow'd their early Character and Distinction. Ill wou'd it fare with 'em, indeed, if on these tenacious Terms they shou'd venture upon CRITICISM,

CISM, or offer to move that *Spirit* which Ch. 2. wou'd infallibly give such Disturbance to ~~the~~ their establish'd Title.

Now we may consider, That in our Nation, and especially in our present Age, whilst Wars, Debates, and publick Convulsions turn our Minds so wholly upon Busines and Affairs; the better *Genius's* being in a manner necessarily involv'd in the active Sphere, on which the general Eye of Mankind is so strongly fixt; there must remain in the Theatre of Wit a sufficient Vacancy of Place: and the quality of *Actor* upon that Stage must of consequence be very easily attainable, and at a low Price of Ingenuity or Understanding.

THE Persons therefore who are in possession of the *prime Parts* in this deserted Theatre, being suffer'd to maintain their Ranks and Stations in full Ease, have naturally a good Agreement and Understanding with their Fellow-Wits. Being indebted to the Times for this Happiness, that with so little Industry or Capacity they have been able to serve the Nation with *Wit*, and supply the Place of real Dispensers and Ministers of the Muses *Treasures*; they must, necessarily, as they have any Love for themselves, or fatherly Affection for their Works, conspire with one another to preserve their common Interest of Indolence,

Misc. 5. dolence, and justify their Remisness; Uncorrectness, Insipidness, and downright Ignorance of all literate *Art*, or just poetick *Beauty*.

\* *Magna inter molles Concordia.*

FOR this reason you see 'em mutually courteous, and benevolent ; gracious and obliging, beyond measure ; complimenting one another interchangeably, at the head of their Works, in *recommendatory* Verses, or in separate Panegyricks, Essays, and Fragments of Poetry ; such as in the *Miscellaneous Collections* (our yearly Retail of Wit) we see curiously compacted, and accommodated to the Relish of the World. Here the *Tyrocinium* of Genius's is annually display'd. Here, if you think fit; you may make acquaintance with the young Offspring of WITS, as they come up gradually under the old ; with due Courtship, and Homage, paid to those high Predecessors of Fame, in hope of being one day admitted, by turn, into the noble Order, and made WITS by *Patent* and *Authority*:

THIS is the young *Ery* which you may see busily surrounding the grown Poet, or chief Play-house-*Author*, at a *Coffee-House*. They are his Guards ; ready to take up

\* Juven. Sat. ii. ver. 47.

Arms for him ; if by some presumptuous Ch. 2.  
*Critick* he is at any time attack'd. They ~~were~~  
are indeed the very Shadows of their im-  
mediate Predecessor, and represent the  
same Features, with some small Altera-  
tion perhaps for the worse. They are  
sure to aim at nothing above or beyond  
their Master ; and wou'd on no account  
give him the least Jealousy of their aspiring  
to any Degree or Order of writing above  
him. From hence that *Harmony* and *reci-  
procal Esteem*, which, on such a bottom as  
this, cannot fail of being perfectly well  
establish'd among our Poets : The Age,  
mean while, being after this manner hope-  
fully provided, and secure of a constant  
and like Succession of meritorious Wits, in  
every kind !

IF by chance a Man of Sense, un-ap-  
priz'd of the Authority of these high  
Powers, shou'd venture to accost the Gen-  
tlemen of this Fraternity, at some *Coffee-  
house* Committee, whilst they were taken  
up, in mutual Admiration, and the usual  
Praise of their national and co-temporary  
Wits ; 'tis possible he might be treated  
with some Civility, whilst he inquir'd, for  
Satisfaction sake, into the Beautys of  
those particular Works so unanimously  
extoll'd. But shou'd he presume to ask,  
in general, " Why is our *Epick* or *Dra-  
matick*, our *Essay*, or *common Prose* no  
“ better

Misc. 5. "better executed?" Or, "Why in par-  
 ticular does such or such a reputed Wit  
 write so incorrectly, and with so little  
 regard to Justness of Thought or Lan-  
 guage?" The Answer wou'd present-  
 ly be given, "That we *Englishmen* are  
 not ty'd up to such rigid Rules as those  
 of the antient *Grecian*, or modern  
*French* Criticks."

"BE it so (Gentlemen!) 'Tis your  
 good Pleasure. Nor ought any one to  
 dispute it with you. You are Masters,  
 no doubt, in your own Country. But  
 (Gentlemen!) the Question here, is not  
 What your Authority may be over your  
 own Writers. You may have them of  
 what Fashion or Size of Wit you please;  
 and allow them to entertain you at the  
 rate you think sufficient, and satisfac-  
 tory. But can you, by your good  
 Pleasure, or the Approbation of your  
 highest Patrons, make that to be either  
*Wit*, or *Sense*, which wou'd otherwise  
 have been Bombast and Contradiction?  
 If your Poets are still \* Mr. BAYS's,  
 and your Prose-Authors Sir ROGERS,  
 without

\* To see the Incorrigibleness of our Poets in their pedantick Manner, their Vanity, Defiance of Criticism, their Rhodomontade, and poetical Bravado; we need only turn to our famous Poet-Laureat (the very Mr. BAYS himself) in one of his latest and most valu'd Pieces, writ many years after

“ without offering at a better Manner ; Ch. 2.  
 “ must it follow that *the Manner it-self* is *U U*  
 “ good, or *the Wit* genuine ? — What  
 “ say you (Gentlemen !) to this new  
 “ Piece ? — Let us examine these Lines  
 “ which you call *shining* ! This String of  
 “ Sentences which you call *clever* ! This  
 “ Pile of Metaphors which you call *sub-*  
 “ *lime* ! — Are you unwilling (Gentle-  
 “ men !) to stand the Test ? Do you de-  
 “ spise the Examination ?

after the ingenious Author of the *Rehearsal* had drawn his Picture. “ I have been listening (says our Poet, in his Preface to *Don Sebastian*) “ what Objections had been made “ against the Conduct of the Play, but found them all so “ trivial, that if I shou'd name them, a true Critick wou'd “ imagine that I plaid booty — Some are pleas'd to say “ the Writing is dull. But *etatem habet, de se loquatur.* “ Others, that the double Poison is unnatural. Let the com- “ mon receiv'd Opinion, and *Aufonius*'s famous Epigram “ answer that. Lastly, a more ignorant sort of Creatures “ than either of the former, maintain that the Character of “ DORAX is not only unnatural, but inconsistent with “ it-self. Let them read the Play, and think again — A “ longer Reply is what those Cavillers deserve not. But I “ will give them and their Fellows to understand, that the “ Earl of \* \* \* was pleas'd to read the Tragedy twice “ over before it was acted, and did me the favour to send “ me word, that I had written beyond any of my former “ Plays, and that he was displeas'd any thing shou'd be cut “ away. If I have not reason to prefer his single Judgment “ to a whole Faction, let the World be judge : For the Op- “ position is the same with that of *LUCAN*'s Hero against “ an Army, *concurrere Bellum atque Virum*. I think I may “ modestly conclude, &c.”

Thus he goes on, to the very end, in the self-same Strain. Who, after this, can ever say of the *Rehearsal*-Author, that his Picture of our Poet was over-charg'd, or the national Humour wrong describ'd ?

Misc. 5.

“ SIR! — — Since you are pleas’d to  
“ take this Liberty with us; May we pre-  
“ sume to ask you a Question? O  
“ Gentlemen! as many as you please: I  
“ shall be highly honour’d. Why  
“ then (pray Sir!) inform us, Whether  
“ you have ever *writ*? Very often  
“ (Gentlemen!) especially on a Post-  
“ night. But have you *writ* (for in-  
“ stance, Sir!) a *Play*, a *Song*, an *Essay*,  
“ or a PAPER, as, by way of Eminence,  
“ the current *Pieces* of our Weekly Wits  
“ are generally styl’d? Something  
“ of this kind I may perhaps (Gentle-  
“ men!) have attempted, tho without pub-  
“ lishing my Work. But pray (Gentle-  
“ men!) what is my *writing*, or *not wri-*  
“ *ting* to the question in hand? On-  
“ ly this, (Sir!) and you may fairly take  
“ our words for it: That, whenever you  
“ publish, you will find the Town against  
“ you. Your Piece will infallibly be con-  
“ demn’d. So let it. But for what  
“ reason, Gentlemen? I am sure, you ne-  
“ ver saw the Piece. No, Sir. But  
“ you are a CRITICK. And we know by  
“ certain Experience, that, when a Critick  
“ writes according to Rule and Method,  
“ he is sure never to hit the *English* Taste.  
“ Did not Mr. R—, who criticiz’d our  
“ *English* Tragedy, write a sorry one of  
“ his own? If he did (Gentlemen!)  
“ ’twas

“ ’twas his own fault, not to know his Ch. 2.  
“ Genius better. But is his Criticism the ~~~  
“ less just on this account? If a Musi-  
“ cian performs his Part well in the har-  
“ dest Symphonys, he must necessarily  
“ know the Notes, and understand the  
“ Rules of Harmony and Musick. But  
“ must a Man, therefore, who has an Ear,  
“ and has study’d the Rules of Musick, of  
“ necessity have a Voice or Hand? Can  
“ no one possibly judg a *Fiddle*, but who  
“ is himself a *Fiddler*? Can no one judg  
“ a *Picture*, but who is himself a *Layer*  
“ of Colours?” —

Thus far our rational Gentleman per-  
haps might venture, before his Coffee-  
house Audience. Had I been at his Elbow  
to prompt him as a Friend, I shou’d hard-  
ly have thought fit to remind him of any  
thing further. On the contrary, I shou’d  
have rather taken him aside, to inform him  
of this *Cabal*, and establish’d *Corporation*  
of Wit; of their declar’d Aversion to *Cri-  
ticism*, and of their known Laws and Sta-  
tutes in that Cafe made and provided. I  
shou’d have told him, in short, that learned  
Arguments wou’d be mispent on such as  
these: And that he wou’d find little Suc-  
cess, tho he shou’d ever so plainly demon-  
strate to the Gentlemen of this Size of  
Wit and Understanding, “ That the greatest  
“ *Masters of Art*, in every kind of Wri-  
“ ting,

Misc. 5. "ting, were eminent in the *critical Practice.*" But that they really were so, witness, among the *Antients*, their greatest \* PHILOSOPHERS, whose *critical* Pieces lie intermixt with their profound *philosophical* Works, and other politer Tracts ornamenteally writ, † for publick use. Witness in *History* and *Rhetorick*, ISOCRATES, DIONYSIUS HALICARNASSEUS, PLUTARCH, and the corrupt LUCIAN himself; the only one perhaps of these Authors, whom our Gentlemen may, in some modern Translation, have look'd into, with any Curiosity or Delight. To these among the *Romans* we may add CICERO, VARRO, HORACE, QUINTILIAN, PLINY, and many more.

AMONG the *Moderns*, a BOILEAU and a CORNEILLE are sufficient Precedents in the Case before us. They apply'd their *Criticism* with just Severity, even to their own Works. This indeed is a Manner hardly practicable with the Poets of our own Nation. It wou'd be unreasonable to expect of 'em that they shou'd bring such Measures in use, as being apply'd to their Works, wou'd disco-

\* Viz. PLATO, ARISTOTLE. See, in particular, the PHÆDRUS of the former; where an entire Piece of the Orator LYSIAS is criticiz'd in form.

† The distinction of Treatises was into the *ἀρχαιολογίας*, and *ἐξετάσις*.

ver 'em to be wholly deform'd and dif-Ch. 2.  
proportionable. 'Tis no wonder there-~~~~~  
fore if we have so little of this *critical*  
Genius extant, to guide us in our Taste.  
'Tis no wonder if what is generally cur-  
rent in this kind, lies in a manner bury'd,  
and in disguise under Burlesque, as parti-  
cularly in the \* witty Comedy of a noble  
Author of this last Age. To the Shame,  
however, of our profess'd Wits and Enter-  
prizers in the higher Spheres of Poetry,  
it may be observ'd, that they have not  
wanted good Advice and Instruction of  
the graver kind, from as high a Hand in  
respect of Quality and Character: Since  
one of the justest of our modern Poems,  
and so confess'd even by our Poets them-  
selves, is a short *Criticism*, An ART OF  
POETRY; by which, if they themselves  
were to be judg'd, they must in general  
appear no better than mere Bunglers, and  
void of all true Sense and Knowledg in  
their Art. But if in reality both *Critick*  
and *Poet*, confessing the Justice of these  
Rules of Art, can afterwards, in Practice,  
condemn and approve, perform and judg,  
in a quite different manner from what  
they acknowledg just and *true*: it plainly  
shews, That, tho' perhaps we are not in-  
digent in *Wit*; we want what is of more

\* The *Rehearsal*. See VOL. I. pag. 259. and just a-  
bove, pag. 277. in the Notes.

Misc. 5. consequence, and can alone raise *Wit* to  
 any Dignity or Worth; even plain HONESTY, MANNERS, and a Sense of that MORAL TRUTH, on which (as has been often express'd in these \* Volumes) poetick TRUTH and Beauty must naturally depend.

+ *Qui didicit Patriæ quid debeat, &*  
*quid Amicis,*  
*Quo sit amore parens, quo frater aman-*  
*dus & hospes,*  
*Quod sit Conscripti, quod Judicis offi-*  
*cium,* ——————  
 —————— *ille profectò*  
*Reddere personæ scit convenientia cui-*  
*que.*

As for this Species of *Morality* which distinguishes the Civil Offices of Life, and describes each becoming Personage or Character in this Scene; so necessary it is for the *Poet* and *polite Author* to be appriz'd of it, that even the *Divine* himself may with juster pretence be exempted from the knowldg of this sort. The Composer of religious Discourses has the advantage of that *higher Scene* of Mystery, which is above the level of human Commerce. 'Tis not so much his Concern, or Busines, to be

\* *Viz.* VOL. I. pag. 207, 208. and 277, 278. and 336,  
 &c. So above, pag. 260. and in the Notes.

† Horat. de Arte Poet. ver. 312, &c.

agreeable. And often when he wou'd en-Ch. 2.  
deavour it, he becomes more than ordinary dis-  
pleasing. *His* Theater, and *that* of  
the polite World, are very different: Inso-  
much that in a *Reverend AUTHOR*, or  
**DECLAIMER** of this sort, we naturally  
excuse the Ignorance of ordinary *Decorum*,  
in what relates to the Affairs of our inferior  
temporal World. But for *the POET* or  
*genteel WRITER*, who is of this World  
merely, 'tis a different Case. He must be  
*perfect* in this moral Science. We can ea-  
sily bear the loss of *indifferent POETRY*  
or *ESSAY*. A good Bargain it were, cou'd  
we get rid of every *moderate Performance*  
in this kind. But were we oblig'd to hear  
only *excellent SERMONS*, and to read no-  
thing, in the way of Devotion, which was  
not *well writ*; it might possibly go hard  
with many Christian People, who are at  
present such attentive Auditors and Readers.  
Establish'd Pastors have a right to be *in-  
different*. But voluntary Discourses and At-  
tempters in Wit or Poetry, are as intolera-  
ble, when they are *indifferent*, as either  
Fiddlers or Painters:

\* — *Poterat duci quia Cœna sine ifsis.*

Other *BAYS*'s and *Poetafters* may be law-  
fully baited; tho we patiently submit to our  
*BAYS*'s in *Divinity*.

\* Hor. Ars Poet. ver. 376.

Misc. 5.

HAD the Author of our \* *Subject-Treatises* consider'd thorowly of these literate Affairs, and found how the Interest of Wit stood at present in our Nation, he wou'd have had so much regard surely to his own Interest, as never to have writ unless either in the single Capacity of mere CRITICK, or that of AUTHOR *in form.* If he had resolv'd never to produce a regular or legitimate Piece, he might pretty safely have writ on still after the rate of his first Volume, and mixt manner. He might have been as *critical*, as *satirical*, or as full of *Raillery* as he had pleas'd. But to come afterwards as a grave *Actor* upon the Stage, and expose himself to Criticism in his turn, by giving us a Work or two in form, after the regular manner of Composition, as we see in his second Volume; this, I think, was no extraordinary Proof of his Judgment or Ability, in what related to his own Credit and Advantage.

ONE of these formal Pieces (the INQUIRY already examin'd) we have found to be wholly after the Manner, which in one of his critical Pieces he calls the *Methodick*. But his next Piece (the MORALISTS, which we have now before us)

\* *Supra*, p. 135, 189.

must,

must, according to his own \* Rules, beCh. 2.  
reckon'd as an Undertaking of greater ~~weight~~  
'Tis not only at the bottom, as  
*systematical, didactic and preceptive*, as  
that other Piece of formal Structure; but  
it assumes withal another Garb, and more  
fashionable Turn of Wit. It conceals what  
is *scholaſtical*, under the appearance of a  
polite Work. It aspires to *Dialogue*, and  
carrys with it not only those poetick Fea-  
tures of the Pieces antiently call'd MIMES;  
but it attempts to unite the several Per-  
sonages and Characters in ONE *Action*, or  
*Story*, within a determinate Compafs of  
Time, regularly divided, and drawn into  
different and proportion'd Scenes: And this,  
too, with variety of STYLE; the *ſimple*,  
*comick*, *rhetorical*, and even the *poe-*  
*ticke or ſublime*; ſuch as is the apteſt to  
run into Enthusiaſm and Extravagance.  
So much is our Author, by virtue of this  
Piece †, a POET in due form, and by a  
more

\* VOL. I. pag. 193, &c. and pag. 257.

† That he is conſcious of this, we may gather from that  
Line or two of Advertisement, which stands at the beginning  
of his first Edition. " As for the Characters, and Incidents,  
" they are neither wholly feign'd (*says he*) nor wholly true:  
" but according to the Liberty allow'd in the way of DIA-  
" LOGUE, the principal Matters are founded upon Truth;  
" and the rest as near reſembling as may be. 'Tis a Sceptick  
" recites: and the Hero of the Piece paſſes for an Enthusiaſt.  
" If a perfect Character be wanting; 'tis the ſame Cafe here,  
" as with the Poets in ſome of their beſt Pieces. And this  
" ſurely is a ſufficient Warrant for the Author of a PHILO-  
" SOPHICAL

Misc. 5. more apparent claim, than if he had writ  
 ~~ a PLAY, or *dramatick Piece*, in as regular a manner, at least, as any known at present on our Stage.

IT appears, indeed, that as high as our Author, in his *critical Capacity*, wou'd pretend to carry the refin'd Manner and accurate SIMPLICITY of the Antients;

“ SOPHICAL ROMANCE.”—Thus our Author himself; who to conceal, however, his strict Imitation of the antient poetick DIALOGUE, has prefix'd an auxiliary Title to his Work, and given it the Surname of RHAPSODY: As if it were merely of that *Essay* or mix'd kind of Works, which come abroad with an affected Air of Negligence and Irregularity. But whatever our Author may have affected in his *Title-Page*, 'twas so little his Intention to write after that Model of incoherent Workmanship, that it appears to be sorely against his Will, if this *Dialogue-Piece* of his has not the just Character, and correct Form of those antient Poems describ'd. He wou'd gladly have constituted ONE single *Action* and *Time*, suitable to the just Simplicity of those Dramatick Works. And this, one wou'd think, was easy enough for him to have done. He needed only to have brought his first Speakers immediately into Action, and sav'd the narrative or recitative Part of PHILOCLES to PALEMON, by producing them as speaking Personages upon his Stage. The Scene all along might have been the Park. From the early Evening to the late Hour of Night, that the two Galants withdrew to their Town-Apartments, there was sufficient time for the Narrator PHILOCLES, to have recited the whole Transaction of the second and third Part; which wou'd have stood thro'out as it now does: only at the Conclusion, when the narrative or recitative Part had ceas'd, the simple and direct DIALOGUE wou'd have again return'd, to grace the Exit. By this means the *temporal* as well as *local* Unity of the Piece had been preferv'd. Nor had our Author been necessitated to commit that *Anachronism*, of making his first Part, *in order*, to be last in time.

he

he dares not, in his own Model and principal Performance, attempt to unite his Philosophy in one solid and uniform Body, nor carry on his Argument in one continu'd Chain or Thred. Here our Author's Timorousness is visible. In the very Plan or Model of his Work, he is apparently put to a hard shift, to contrive how or with what probability he might introduce Men of any Note or Fashion, \* reasoning expreſſly and purpoſely, without play or trifling, for two or three hours together, on mere PHILOSOPHY and MORALS. He finds these Subjects (as he confesses) so wide of common Conversation, and, by long Custom, so appropriated to the *School*, the *University-Chair*, or *Pulpit*, that he thinks it hardly safe or practicable to treat of them elsewhere, or in a different Tone. He is forc'd therefore to raise particular *Machines*, and constrain his principal Characters, in order to carry a better Face, and bear himself out, against the appearance of *Pedantry*. Thus his Gentleman-Philosopher THEOCLES, before he enters into his real Character, becomes a feign'd *Preacher*. And even when his real Character comes on, he hardly dares stand it out; but to deal the better with his Sceptick-Friend, he falls again to personating, and takes up the

\* VOL. I. pag. 202, &c.

Misc. 5. Humour of the *Poet* and *Enthusiast*. PA-  
LEMON the Man of Quality, and who is  
first introduc'd as Speaker in the Piece,  
must, for fashion-sake, appear *in Love*, and  
under a kind of Melancholy, produc'd by  
some Mis-adventures in the World. How  
else shou'd he be suppos'd so serious? PHI-  
LOCLES his Friend (an airy Gentleman  
of the World, and a thorow Raillier) must  
have a home Charge upon him, and feel  
the Anger of his grave Friend, before he  
can be suppos'd grave enough to enter into  
a philosophical Discourse. A quarter of an  
hour's reading must serve to represent an  
hour or two's Debate. And a new Scene  
presenting it self, ever and anon, must give  
Refreshment, it seems, to the faint Reader,  
and remind him of the Characters and Busi-  
ness going on.

'T IS in the same view that we MIS-  
CELLANARIAN Authors, being fearful of  
the natural Lassitude and Satiety of our in-  
dolent Reader, have prudently betaken our-  
selves to the way of *Chapters* and *Contents* ;  
that as the Reader proceeds, by frequent  
Intervals of Repose, contriv'd on purpose  
for him, he may from time to time be ad-  
vertis'd of what is yet to come, and be  
tempted thus to renew his Application.

THUS in our modern *Plays* we see, al-  
most in every other Leaf, Descriptions or  
Illustra-

Illustrations of the Action, not in the Ch. 2.  
*Poem* it-self, or in the mouth of the  Actors; but by the Poet, in his own Person; in order, as appears, to help out a Defect of the Text, by a kind of marginal Note, or Comment: which renders these Pieces of a *mix'd* kind between the *narrative* and *dramatick*. 'Tis in this fashionable Style, or manner of dumb Shew, that the Reader finds the Action of the Piece more amazingly express'd, than he possibly cou'd by the Lines of the *Drama* it-self; where the Partys alone are suffer'd to be Speakers.

'Tis out of the same regard to Ease, both in respect of Writer and Reader, that we see long Characters and Descriptions at the head of most dramatick Pieces, to inform us of the Relations, Kindred, Interests, and Designs of the *Dramatis Personæ*: This being of the highest importance to the Reader, that he may the better understand *the Plot*, and find out the principal Characters and Incidents of the Piece; which otherways cou'd not possibly discover themselves, as they are read in their due order. And to do justice to our Play-Readers, they seldom fail to humour our Poets in this respect, and read over the Characters with strict application, as a sort of *Grammar*, or *Key*, before they enter on the Piece it-self. I know not whether they

Misc. 5. wou'd do so much for any philosophical  
Piece in the world. Our Author seems  
very much to question it; and has there-  
fore made that part easy enough, which re-  
lates to the distinction of his Characters,  
by making use of the narrative Manner.  
Tho he had done, as well, perhaps, not to  
have gone out of the natural plain way,  
on this account. For with those to whom  
such philosophical Subjects are agreeable,  
it cou'd be thought no laborious Task to  
give the same attention to Characters in  
*Dialogue*, as is given at the first entrance  
by every Reader to the easiest *Play*, com-  
pos'd of fewest and plainest Personages.  
But for those who read these Subjects  
with mere Supineness, and Indifference;  
they will as much begrudg the pains of  
attending to the Characters thus parti-  
cularly pointed out, as if they had only  
been discernible by Inference and Dedu-  
ction from the mouth of the speaking Party's  
themselves.

MORE REASONS are given by  
our \* Author himself, for his avoiding the  
*direct way* of DIALOGUE; which at pre-  
sent lies so low, and is us'd only now and  
then, in our *Party-Pamphlets*, or new-  
fashion'd *theological Essays*. For of late,

\* VOL. II. pag. 187, 188.

it seems, the Manner has been introduc'd Ch. 2. into Church-Controversy, with an Attempt ~~of~~ of *Raillery* and *Humour*, as a more successful Method of dealing with Heresy and Infidelity. The Burlesque-Divinity grows mightily in vogue. And the cry'd-up Answers to heterodox Discourses are generally such as are written in Drollery, or with resemblance of the facetious and humorous Language of Conversation.

Joy to the reverend Authors, who can afford to be thus gay, and condescend to correct us, in this *Lay-Wit*. The Advances they make in behalf of Piety and Manners, by such a *popular* Style, are doubtless found, upon experience, to be very considerable. As these Reformers are nicely qualify'd to hit the Air of Breeding and Gentility, they will in time, no doubt, refine their Manner, and improve this jocular Method, to the Edification of the polite World; who have been so long seduc'd by the way of *Raillery* and *Wit*. They may do wonders by their *comick Muse*, and may thus, perhaps, find means to *laugh* Gentlemen into their Religion, who have unfortunately been *laugh'd* out of it. For what reason is there to suppose that Orthodoxy shou'd not be able to *laugh* as agreeably, and with as much Refinedness, as Heresy or Infidelity?

Misc. 5.

At present, it must be own'd, the *Characters*, or *Personages*, employ'd by our new orthodox Dialogists, carry with 'em little Proportion or Coherence; and in this respect may be said to sute perfectly with that figurative metaphorical Style and rhetorical Manner, in which their Logick and Arguments are generally couch'd. Nothing can be more complex or multi-form than their moral *Draughts* or *Sketches* of Humanity. These, indeed, are so far from representing any particular MAN, or *Order of Men*, that they scarce resemble any thing of *the Kind*. 'Tis by their Names only that these *Characters* are figur'd. Tho' they bear different Titles, and are set up to maintain contrary Points; they are found, at the bottom, to be all of the same fide; and, notwithstanding their seeming Variance, to co-operate in the most officious manner with the Author, towards the display of his own proper Wit, and the establishment of his private Opinion and Maxims. They are indeed his very legitimate and obsequious *Puppets*; as like *real Men* in Voice, Action, and Manners, as those wooden or wire Engines of the lower Stage. PHILOTHEUS and PHILATHEUS, PHILAUTUS and PHILAETHES are of one and the same Order: Just Tallys to one another: Questioning and Answering in concert,

concert, and with such a sort of Alterna-Ch. 2.  
tive as is known in a vulgar Play, where  one Person lies down blindfold, and presents himself, as fair as may be, to another; who by favour of the Company, or the assistance of his Good-fortune, deals his Companion many a sound Blow, without being once challeng'd, or brought into his Turn of *lying down.*

THERE is the same curious Mixture of *Chance*, and *elegant Vicissitude*, in the Style of these Mock-Personages of our new *Theological Drama*: with this difference only, “ That after the poor Phantom or “ Shadow of an Adverſary has said as “ little for his Caufe as can be imagin'd, “ and given as many Opens and Advan-“ tages as cou'd be desir'd, he *lies down* “ for good and all, and paſſively submits “ to the killing Strokes of his unmerciful “ Conqueror.”

HARDLY, as I conceive, will it be objected to our MORALIST, (the Author of the *philosophick Dialogue* above) “ That “ the Personages who sustain the *sceptical* “ or *objecting Parts*, are over-tame and “ tractable in their Disposition.” Did I perceive any such foul dealing in his Piece; I shou'd scarce think it worthy of the Criticism here bestow'd. For in this sort of Writing, where Personages are exhibi-

Misc. 5. ted, and natural Conversation set in view ;  
 if Characters are neither tolerably preserv'd, nor Manners with any just Similitude describ'd ; there remains nothing but what is too gross and monstrous for Criticism or Examination.

"TWILL be alledg'd, perhaps, in answer to what is here advanc'd, " That shou'd A DIALOGUE be wrought up to the Exactness of these Rules ; it ought to be condemn'd, as the worse Piece, for affording the Infidel or Sceptick such good quarter, and giving him the full advantage of his Argument and Wit."

BUT to this I reply, That either DIALOGUE shou'd never be attempted ; or, if it be, the Partys shou'd appear natural, and such as they really are. If we paint at all ; we shou'd endeavour to paint like Life, and draw Creatures as they are knowable, in their proper Shapes and better Features ; not in Metamorphosis, not mangled, lame, distorted, aukard Forms, and impotent Chimeras. Atheists have their Sense and Wits, as other Men ; or why is ATHEISM so often challeng'd in those of the better Rank ? Why charg'd so often to the account of Wit and subtle Reasoning ?

WERE I to advise these Authors, towards whom I am extremely well-affected on account of their good-humour'd Zeal, and the seeming Sociableness of their Religion; I shou'd say to 'em, " Gentlemen ! " Be not so cautious of furnishing your representative SCEPTICK with too good Arguments, or too shreud a Turn of Wit or Humour. Be not so fearful of giving quarter. Allow your Adversary his full Reason, his Ingenuity, Sense, and Art. Trust to the *chief Character* or HERO of your Piece. Make him as dazzling bright, as you are able. He will undoubtedly overcome the utmost Force of his Opponent, and dispel the Darkness or Cloud, which the Adversary may unluckily have rais'd. But if when you have fairly wrought up your Antagonist to his due Strength and cognizable Proportion, your *chief Character* cannot afterwards prove a match for him, or shine with a superior Brightness; Whose Fault is it ? — The Subject's ? — This, I hope, you will never allow. — Whose, therefore, beside *your own*? — Beware then ; and consider well your Strength and Mastership in this manner of Writing, and in the qualifying Practice of the polite World, ere you attempt these accurate and refin'd Limnings or Portraitures of Mankind, or offer to bring Gentlemen

Misc. 5. " on the Stage. For if *real Gentlemen*, se-  
 ~~~~~ " duc'd, as you pretend, and made erro-  
 " neous in their Religion or Philosophy,  
 " discover not the least Feature of their real  
 " Faces in your Looking-glass, nor know  
 " themselves, in the least, by your Descrip-  
 " tion ; they will hardly be apt to think  
 " they are refuted. How wittily soever  
 " your Comedy may be wrought up, they  
 " will scarce apprehend any of that Wit to  
 " fall upon themselves. They may laugh  
 " indeed at the Diversion you are pleas'd  
 " to give 'em: But *the Laugh* perhaps  
 " may be different from what you intend.  
 " They may smile secretly to see themselves  
 " thus encounter'd ; when they find, at  
 " last, your Authority laid by, and your  
 " *scholaſtick* Weapons quitted, in favour  
 " of this weak Attempt, *To master them*  
 " *by their own Arms, and proper Ability.*"

THUS WE have perform'd our *critical* Task, and try'd our Strength, both on our Author, and those of his Order, who attempt to write in *Dialogue*, after the active dramatick, \* *mimical*, or personating Way; according to which a Writer is properly *poetical*.

WHAT remains, we shall examine in our succeeding and last Chapter.

\* See VOL. I. pag. 193, &c.

## C H A P. III.

*Of Extent or Latitude of Thought.—*

*Free-Thinkers.—Their Cause,  
and Character.—Dishonesty, a  
Half-Thought.—Short Thinking,  
Cause of Vice and Bigotry.—  
Agreement of Slavery and Super-  
stition.—LIBERTY, civil, mo-  
ral, spiritual.—Free-thinking  
Divines.—Representatives in-  
cognito.—Embassadors from the  
Moon.—Effectual Determination  
of Christian Controversy and Re-  
ligious Belief.*

BEING now come to the Conclusion of my Work; after having defended the Cause of *Criticks* in general, and employ'd what Strength I had in that Science upon our adventurous Author in particular; I may, according to Equity, and with the better grace, attempt a line or two, in defense of that *Freedom of Thought* which our Author has us'd, particularly in one of the Personages of his last *Dialogue-Treatise*.

Misc. 5.

THE THERE is good reason to suppose, that however *equally* fram'd, or near *alike*, the Race of Mankind may appear in other respects, they are not always *equal Thinkers*, or of a like Ability in the management of this natural Talent which we call THOUGHT. The *Race*, on this account, may therefore justly be distinguish'd, as they often are, by the Appellation of the *Thinking*, and the *Unthinking* sort. The mere *Unthinking* are such as have not yet arriv'd to that happy Thought, by which they shou'd observe, " How necessary " Thinking is, and how fatal the want " of it must prove to 'em." The *Thinking* part of Mankind, on the other side, having discover'd the Affiduity and Industry requisite to *right-Thinking*, and being already *commenc'd THINKERS* upon this Foundation ; are, in the progress of the Affair, convinc'd of the necessity of *thinking to good purpose*, and carrying the Work to a thorow Issue. They know that if they *refrain* or *stop* once, upon this Road, they had done as well *never to have set out*. They are not so supine as to be with-held by mere Laziness ; when nothing lies in the way to interrupt the *free Course* and Progress of their Thought.

SOME Obstacles, 'tis true, may, on this occasion, be pretended. *Specters* may come

come a-cross ; and *Shadows* of Reason rise Ch. 3. up against REASON it-self. But if Men ~~ever~~ have once heartily espous'd the *reasoning* or *thinking Habit* ; they will not easily be induc'd to lay the Practice down ; they will not at an instant be arrested, or made to stand, and yield themselves, when they come to such a certain Boundary, Land-Mark, Post, or Pillar, erected here or there (for what reason may probably be guess'd) with the Inscription of a *N*e plus ultra.

'Tis not, indeed, any Authority on Earth, as we are well assur'd, can stop us on this Road, unless we please to make the Arrest, or Restriction, of our own accord. 'Tis our own *Thought* which must restrain our Thinking. And whether the *restraining Thought* be just, how shall we ever judge, without examining it *freely*, and out of all constraint ? How shall we be sure that we have justly quitted REASON, as too high and dangerous, too aspiring or presumptive ; if thro' Fear of any kind, or submitting to mere *Command*, we quit our very examining Thought, and in the moment stop short, so as to put an end to further Thinking on the matter ? Is there much difference between this Case, and that of the obedient Beasts of Burden, who stop precisely at their appointed Inn, or at whatever Point the *Charioteer*, or

Misc. 5. *Gouvernour of the Reins*, thinks fit to give  
~~~~ the signal for a Halt?

I CANNOT but from hence conclude, That of all Species of Creatures said commonly *to have Brains*; the most insipid, wretched and preposterous are those, whom in just Propriety of Speech, we call *Half-thinkers*.

I HAVE often known *Pretenders to WIT* break out into admiration, on the sight of some raw, heedless, unthinking Gentleman; declaring on this occasion, That they esteem'd it the happiest Case in the World, "Never *to think*, or trouble "one's Head with *Study* or *Consideration*." This I have always look'd upon as one of the highest Airs of Distinction, which the self-admiring Wits are us'd to give themselves, in publick Company. Now the *Echo* or *Antiphony* which these elegant Exclaimers hope, by this Reflection, to draw necessarily from their Audience, is, "That they themselves are over-fraughted "with this Merchandize of *THOUGHT*; "and have not only enough for *Ballast*, "but such a *Cargo* over and above, as is "enough to sink 'em by its Weight." I am apt however to imagine of these Gentlemen, That it was never their *over-thinking* which oppress'd them; and that if their Thought had ever really become oppressive to

to 'em, they might thank themselves, forCh. 3.  
having *under-thought*, or *reason'd short*, so ~~as~~  
as to rest satisfy'd with a very superficial  
Search into Matters of the first and highest  
Importance.

IF, for example, they over-look'd the chief *Enjoyments of Life*, which are founded in *Honesty* and a *good Mind*; if they presum'd *mere Life* to be fully worth what its tenacious Lovers are pleas'd to rate it at; if they thought *publick Distinction*, *Fame*, *Power*, *an Estate*, or *Title*, to be of the same value as is vulgarly conceiv'd, or as they concluded, on a first Thought, without further *Scepticism* or After-deliberation; 'tis no wonder, if being in time become such mature *Dogmatists*, and well-practis'd Dealers in the Affairs of what they call a *Settlement* or *Fortune*, they are so hardly put to it, to find ease or rest within themselves.

THESE are the deeply-loaded and over-pensive Gentlemen, who esteeming it the truest Wit to pursue what they call their *Interest*, wonder to find they are still as little at ease when they have succeeded, as when they first attempted to advance.

THERE can never be less *Self-enjoyment* than in these suppos'd wise Characters, these *selfish Computers* of Happiness and private

Misc. 5. private Good ; whose Pursuits of *Interest*, whether for this World or another, are attended with the same steady Vein of cunning and low Thought, sordid Deliberations, perverse and crooked Fancys, ill Dispositions, and false Relishes of *Life* and *Manners*. The most negligent undesigning thoughtless *Rake* has not only more of Sociableness, Ease, Tranquillity, and Freedom from worldly Cares, but in reality more of Worth, Virtue, and Merit, than such grave Plodders, and *thoughtful* Gentlemen as these.

If it happens, therefore, that these graver, more circumspect, and deeply interested Gentlemen, have, *for their Soul's sake*, and thro' a careful Provision for *Hereafter*, engag'd in certain Speculations of RELIGION ; their *Taste* of VIRTUE, and *Relish* of LIFE is not the more improv'd, on this account. The Thoughts they have on these new Subjects of *Divinity* are so bias'd, and perplex'd, by those *Half-Thoughts* and *raw Imaginations* of Interest, and worldly Affairs ; that they are still disabled in the rational Pursuit of Happiness and Good : And being necessitated thus to remain *Short-Thinkers*, they have the Power to go no further than they are led by those to whom, under such Disturbances and Perplexitys, they apply themselves for Cure and Comfort.

IT HAS been the main Scope and principal End of these Volumes, "To assert the Reality of a BEAUTY and CHARM in *moral* as well as *natural* Subjects; and to demonstrate the Reasonableness of a proportionate TASTE, and determinate CHOICE, in *Life* and *Manners*." The STANDARD of this kind, and the noted Character of *Moral Truth* appear so firmly establish'd in Nature it-self, and so widely display'd thro' the intelligent World, that there is no Genius, Mind, or *thinking Principle*, which (if I may say so) is not really *conscious* in the case. Even the most refractory and obstinate Understandings are by certain *Reprises* or *Returns* of Thought, on every occasion, convinc'd of this Existence, and necessitated, in common with others, to acknowledg the actual RIGHT and WRONG.

'T IS evident that whensoever the Mind, influenc'd by Passion or Humour, consents to any Action, Measure, or Rule of Life, contrary to this governing STANDARD and primary MEASURE of *Intelligence*, it can only be thro' a weak *Thought*, a Scantiness of Judgment, and a Defect in the application of that unavoidable *Impression* and first natural Rule of *Honesty* and *Worth*; against

Misc. 5. against which, whatever is advanc'd, will  
 ~~ be of no other moment than to render a  
 Life distract'd, incoherent, full of Irresolution,  
 Repentance, and Self-disapprobation.

THUS every Immorality and Enormity of Life can only happen from a partial and narrow View of Happiness and Good. Whatever takes from the *Largeness* or *Freedom of Thought*, must of necessity detract from that first *Relish*, or **T A S T E**, on which Virtue and Worth depend.

FOR instance, when the Eye or Appetite is eagerly fix'd on *Treasure*, and the *money'd Bliss* of *Bags* and *Coffers*; 'tis plain there is a kind of *Fascination* in the case. The Sight is instantly diverted from all other Views of Excellence or Worth. And here, even the Vulgar, as well as the more liberal part of Mankind, discover the contracted Genius, and acknowledg the Narrowness of such a Mind.

IN Luxury and Intemperance we easily apprehend how far *Thought* is oppress'd, and the Mind debar'd from just Reflection, and from the *free Examination* and Censure of its own Opinions or Maxims, on which the Conduct of a Life is form'd.

EVEN in that complicated *Good* of vulgar kind, which we commonly call **I N T E R E S T**,

TEREST, in which we comprehend both Ch. 3. *Pleasure, Riches, Power,* and other *exterior Advantages*; we may discern how a *fascinated Sight* contracts a Genius, and by shortning the View even of that very *Interest* which it seeks, betrays the KNAVE, and necessitates the ablest and wittiest Proselyte of the kind, to expose himself on every Emergency and sudden Turn.

BUT above all other enslaving Vices, and Restrainers of *Reason* and *just Thought*, the most evidently ruinous and fatal to the Understanding is that of SUPERSTITION, BIGOTRY, and *vulgar Enthusiasm*. This Passion, not contented like other Vices to deceive, and tacitly supplant our Reason, professes open War, holds up the intended Chains and Fetters, and declares its Resolution to *enslave*.

THE artificial Managers of this human Frailty declaim against *Free-Thought*, and *Latitude* of Understanding. To go beyond those Bounds of thinking which they have prescrib'd, is by them declar'd a *Sacrilege*. To them, *FREEDOM of Mind*, a *MASTERY of Sense*, and a *LIBERTY* in *Thought* and *Action*, imply Debauch, Corruption, and Depravity.

IN consequence of their moral Maxims, and political Establishments, they can indeed

Misc. 5. indeed advance no better Notion of human Happiness and Enjoyment, than that which is in every respect the most opposite to *Liberty*. 'Tis to them doubtless that we owe the Opprobriousness and Abuse of those naturally honest Appellations of *Free-Livers*, *Free-Thinkers*, *Latitudinarians*, or whatever other Character implies a Large-ness of Mind, and generous Use of Understanding. Fain wou'd they confound *Licentiousness in Morals*, with *Liberty in Thought and Action*; and make the *Libertine*, who has the least Mastery of himself, resemble his direct *Opposite*. For such indeed is the Man of resolute Purpose and immovable Adherence to REASON, against every thing which *Passion*, *Prepossession*, *Craft*, or *Fashion* can advance in favour of ought else. But here, it seems, the Grievance lies. 'Tis thought dangerous for us to be over-rational, or too much Masters of our-selves, in what we draw, by just Conclusions, from *Reason* only. Seldom therefore do these *Expositors* fail of bringing the Thought of LIBERTY into disgrace. Even at the expence of *Virtue*, and of that very Idea of GOODNESS on which they build the Mysterys of their profitable Science, they derogate from *Morals*, and reverse all true *Philosophy*; they refine on *Selfishness*, and explode *Generosity*; promote a *slavish* Obedience in the room of voluntary Duty, and free Service;

vice; exalt blind *Ignorance* for *Devotion*, Ch. 3. recommend *low Thought*, decry *Reason*, extol \* *Voluptuousness*, *Wilfulness*, *Vindictiveness*, *Arbitrariness*, *Vain-Glory*; and even † deify those weak Passions which are the Disgrace rather than Ornament of human Nature.

BUT so far is it from the Nature of ‡ *L I B E R T Y* to indulge such *Passions* as these, that whoever acts at any time under the power of any *single-one*, may be said to have already provided for himself *an absolute Master*. And he who lives under the power of a whole Race, (since 'tis scarce possible to obey *one* without the *other*) must of necessity undergo the worst of Servitudes, under the most capricious and domineering Lords.

THAT this is no *Paradox*, even the Writers for Entertainment can inform us; however others may moralize, who discourse or write, as they pretend, for Profit and Instruction. The POETS even of the wanton sort, give ample Testimony of this Slavery and Wretchedness of *Vice*. They may extol Voluptuousness to the Skies, and point their Wit as sharply as they are able against a virtuous State. But when they

\* VOL. II. pag. 256. And below, pag. 310.

† VOL. I. pag. 38.

‡ VOL. II. pag. 252, 432.

Misc. 5. come afterwards to pay the necessary Tribute to their commanding Pleasures ; we hear their pathetick Moans, and find the inward Discord and Calamity of their Lives. Their Example is the best of Precepts ; since they conceal nothing, are sincere, and speak their Passion out aloud. And 'tis in this that the very worst of *Poets* may justly be prefer'd to the generality of modern *Philosophers*, or other *formal Writers* of a yet more specious name. The Muses' Pupils never fail to express their Passions, and write just as they feel. 'Tis not, indeed, in their nature to do otherwise ; whilst they indulge their Vein, and are under the power of that natural *Enthusiasm* which leads 'em to what is highest in their Performance. They follow Nature. They move chiefly as she moves in 'em ; without thought of disguising her free Motions, and genuine Operations, for the sake of any *Scheme* or *Hypothesis*, which they have form'd at leisure, and in particular narrow Views. On this account, tho at one time they quarrel perhaps with VIRTUE, for restraining 'em in their forbidden Loves, they can at another time make her sufficient amends ; when with indignation they complain, " That MERIT is neglected, and their \* worthless Rival prefer'd before them."

\* VOL. I. pag. 141.

Contrane

\* *Contrane lucrum nil valere candidum  
Pauperis ingenium?*

And thus even in common *Elegiack*, in *Song*, *Ode*, or *Epigram*, consecrated to Pleasure it-self, we may often read the dolorous Confession in behalf of Virtue, and see, at the bottom, how the Case stands :

*Nam veræ Voces tum demum pectore ab imo  
Eliciuntur.*

The airy Poets, in these Fits, can, as freely as the *Tragedian*, condole with VIRTUE, and bemoan the case of suffering MERIT;

*Tb' Oppressor's Wrong, the proud Man's  
Contumely,  
The Insolence of Office, and the Spurns  
That patient MERIT of th' Unworthy  
takes.*

THE Poetick Chiefs may give what reason they think fit for their Humour of representing our mad *Appetites* (especially that of LOVE) under the shape of Urchins and wanton Boys, scarce out of their State of Infancy. The original Design, and Moral of this Fiction, I am persuaded, was to shew us, how little there was of *great* and *heroick* in the Government of these

\* HORAT. Epod. xi. ver. 16.

Misc. 5. Pretenders, how truly *weak* and *childish*  
 they were in themselves, and how much lower than mere Children we then became, when we submitted our-selves to their blind Tutorage. There was no fear left in this Fiction the boyish Nature shou'd be misconstru'd as *innocent* and *gentle*. The Storms of Passion, so well known in every kind, kept the *tyrannick Quality* of this wanton Race sufficiently in view. Nor cou'd the poetical Description fail to bring to mind their *mischievous* and *malignant Play*. But when the Image of *imperious Threatning*, and *absolute Command*, was join'd to that of *Ignorance*, *Puerility*, and *Folly*; the Notion was compleated, of that wretched *slavish State*, which modern *Libertines*, in conjunction with some of a graver *Character*, admire, and represent, as the most eligible of any.—“ Happy Condition ! (says one) “ Happy Life, that of the indulg'd PASSIONS; might we pursue it ! ” —— Miserable Condition ! Miserable Life, that of REASON and VIRTUE, “ which we are \* bid pursue ! ”

’T IS the same, it seems, with Men, in *Morals*, as in *Politicks*. When they have been unhappily born and bred to SLAVERY, they are so far from being sensible of their *slavish Course of Life*, or of that ill

\* VOL. II. pag. 256.

Usage, Indignity and Misery they sustain ; Ch. 3.  
that they even admire their own Condition : and being us'd to *think short*, and carry their *Views* no further than those Bounds which were early prescrib'd to 'em ; they look upon TYRANNY as *a natural Café*, and think Mankind in a sort of dangerous and degenerate State, when under the power of *Laws*, and in the possession of *a free Government*.

WE may by these Reflections come easily to apprehend What Men they were who first brought *Reason* and *Free-Thought* under disgrace, and made the noblest of Characters, that of a *Free-Thinker*, to become invidious. 'Tis no wonder if the same Interpreters wou'd have those also to be esteem'd *free* in their Lives, and Masters of *good Living*, who are the least Masters of themselves, and the most impotent in Passion and Humour, of all their Fellow-Creatures. But far be it, and far surely will it ever be, from any worthy Genius, to be consenting to such a treacherous Language, and Abuse of Words. For my own part, I thorowly confide in the *good Powers* of REASON, " That LIBERTY and FREE-  
" DOM shall never, by any Artifice or  
" Delusion, be made to pass with me as  
" frightful Sounds, or as reproachful, or  
" invidious, in any sense."

Misc. 5.

I CAN no more allow *that* to be *Free-living*, where unlimited Passion, and unexamin'd Fancy govern, than I can allow that to be *a Free Government*, where the mere People govern, and not the L A w s. For no People in a Civil State can possibly be *free*, when they are otherwife govern'd than by such *Laws* as they themselves have constituted, or to which they have *freely* given consent. Now to be releas'd from these, so as to govern themselves by each Day's Will or Fancy, and to vary on every Turn the Rule and Measure of Government, without respect to any antient Constitutions or Establishments, or to the stated and fix'd Rules of Equity and Justice; is as certain Slavery, as it is Violence, Distraction, and Misery; such as in the Issue must prove the Establishment of an irretrievable State of *Tyranny*, and *absolute Dominion*.

IN the Determinations of Life, and in the Choice and Government of Actions, he alone is *free* who has within himself no Hindrance, or Controul, in acting what he himself, *by his best Judgment*, and *most deliberate Choice*, approves. COU'D VICE agree possibly with it-self; or cou'd the *vicious* any way reconcile the various Judgments of their inward *Counsellors*; they might with Justice perhaps assert their Liberty and Independency. But whilst they

are necessitated to follow least, what, in Ch. 3. their sedate hours, they most approve ; ~~as~~ whilst they are passively assign'd, and made over from one Possessor to \* another, in contrary Extremes, and to different Ends and Purposes, of which they are themselves wholly ignorant ; 'tis evident, That the more they turn + their Eyes (as many times they are oblig'd) towards *Virtue* and a *free Life*, the more they must confess their Misery and Subjection. They discern their own Captivity, but not with Force and Resolution sufficient to redeem themselves, and become *their own*. Such is the real *Tragick State*, as the old † *Tragedian* represents it :

—*Video meliora proboque,  
Deteriora sequor.*

And thus the highest Spirits, and most refractory Wills, contribute to the lowest Servitude and most submissive State. *Reason* and *Virtue* alone can bestow LIBERTY. *Vice* is unworthy, and unhappy, on

\* *Huncine an bunc sequeris? Subeas alternus oportet  
Ancipiti obsequio Dominos.* — Perf. Sat. v. ver. 155.  
See VOL. I. pag. 285, 309, 323, &c.

† *Magne Pater divum, saevos punire Tyrannos  
Haud alia ratione velis, cum dira libido  
Moverit ingenium ferventi tincta veneno,  
Virtutem videant, intabescantque relicta.*

Perf. Sat. iii. ver. 35.

‡ Καὶ μανθάνω μὲν διὰ πολυῖσπες γαρ. Θυμὸς δὲ κρείσσων  
εἶπεν Εὐλευματων. Eurip. Med. Act. iv. 1078.

Misc. 5. this account only, " That it is *slavish* and  
 debasing."

THUS HAVE we pleaded the Cause of LIBERTY in general; and vindicated, withal, our Author's particular Freedom, in taking the Person of a *Sceptick*, as he has done in this \* last Treatise, on which we have so largely paraphras'd. We may now perhaps, in compliance with general Custom, justly presume to add something in defense of the same kind of Freedom we ourselves have assum'd in these latter *Miscellaneous Comments*; since it wou'd doubtless be very unreasonable and unjust, for those who had so freely play'd the *Critick*, to expect any thing less than the same free Treatment, and thorow Criticism in return.

As for the STYLE or *Language* us'd in these *Comments*; 'tis very different, we find; and varys in proportion with the *Author commented*, and with the different *Characters* and *Persons* frequently introduc'd in the original Treatises. So that there will undoubtedly be Scope sufficient for Censure and Correction.

As for the Observations on ANTIQUITY; we have in most Passages, ex-

\* *Viz.* The MORALISTS, or *Philosophick Dialogue*, recited in the Person of a *Sceptick*, under the name of PHILOCLES. See Treatise V. VOL. II. pag. 206, 207, &c.

cept

cept the very common and obvious, pro-Ch. 3.  
duc'd our Vouchers and Authoritys in our own behalf. What may be thought of our Judgment or Sense in the Application of these Authoritys, and in the Deductions and Reasonings we have form'd from such learned Topicks, must be submitted to the Opinion of the Wise and Learned.

IN MORALS, of which the very Force lies in a love of Discipline, and in a willingness to redress and rectify false Thought, and erring Views; we cannot but patiently wait Redress and amicable Censure from the sole competent Judges, the Wise and Good; whose Interest it has been our whole Endeavour to advance.

THE only Subject on which we are perfectly secure, and without fear of any just Censure or Reproach, is that of FAITH, and Orthodox BELIEF. For in the first place, it will appear, that thro' a profound Respect, and religious Veneration, we have forborn so much as to name any of the sacred and solemn Mysterys of \* Revelation. And, in the next place, as we can with confidence declare, that we have never in any Writing, publick or private, attempted such high Researches, nor have ever in Practice acquitted our-selves otherwise than as just Conformists to the lawful Church; so we

\* *Supra*, pag. 70, 71.

Misc. 5. may, in a proper Sense, be said faithfully  
 and dutifully *to embrace* those holy *Myste-*  
*rysts*, even in their minutest Particulars, and  
 without the least Exception on account of  
 their amazing Depth. And tho' we are sensi-  
 ble that it wou'd be no small hardship to  
 deprive *others* of a liberty of examining and  
 searching, with due Modesty and Submis-  
 sion, into the nature of those Subjects ; yet  
 as for *our-selves*, who have not the least  
 scruple whatsoever, we pray not any such  
 Grace or Favour in our behalf : being fully  
 assur'd of our own steady *Orthodoxy*, *Re-*  
*signation*, and intire *Submission* to the truly  
*Christian* and *Catholick* Doctrines of our  
 Holy Church, as by *Law establish'd*.

'T IS true, indeed, that as to \* CRITI-  
 CAL Learning, and the Examination of  
 Originals, Texts, Glosses, various Readings,  
 Styles, Compositions, Manuscripts, Compile-  
 ments, Editions, Publications, and other  
 Circumstances, such as are common to  
 the Sacred Books with all other Writings  
 and Literature ; this we have confidently  
 asserted to be a just and lawful Study. We  
 have even represented this Species of *Cri-*  
*ticism* as necessary to the Preservation and  
 Purity of Scripture ; that *Sacred Scripture*,  
 which has been so miraculously preserv'd  
 in its successive Copys and Transcriptions,

\* VOL. I. pag. 146, 147.

under the Eye (as we must needs suppose) Ch. 3.  
of holy and learned *Criticks*, thro' so many ~~dark~~ Ages of Christianity, to these latter  
Times; in which Learning has been hap-  
pily reviv'd.

BUT if this *critical* Liberty raises any jealousy against us, we shall beg leave of our offended Reader to lay before him our Case, *at the very worſt*: That if on such a naked Exposition, it be found criminal, we may be absolutely *condemn'd*; if otherwife, *acquitted*, and with the same favour *indulg'd*, as others *in the same Circumstances* have been before us.

ON this occasion therefore, we may be allow'd to borrow something from the Form or Manner of our Dialogue Author, and represent a Conversation of the same free nature as that recited by him in his \* *Night-Scene*; where the suppos'd *SCEPTICK*, or *Free-Thinker*, delivers his Thoughts, and reigns in the Discourse.

'TWAS IN a more considerable Company, and before a more numerous Audience, that not long since, a Gentleman of some Rank, (one who was generally esteem'd to carry a sufficient Caution and

\* VOL. II. pag. 321, 2, 3, 4, &c.

Misc. 5. Reserve in religious Subjects of Discourse, as well as an apparent Deference to Religion, and in particular to the national and establish'd Church) having been provok'd by an impertinent Attack of a certain violent bigotted Party, was drawn into an open and free Vindication not only of Free-Thinking, but Free-Professing, and Discourfing, in Matters relating to Religion and Faith.

SOME of the Company, it seems, after having made bold with him, as to what they fansy'd to be his Principle, began to urge "The Neceſſity of reducing Men to "one Profession and Belief." And several Gentlemen, even of those who pass'd for moderate in their way, seem'd so far to give into this Zealot-Opinion as to agree, "That "notwithstanding the right Method was "not yet found, 'twas highly requisite that "some way shou'd be thought on, to re- "concile Differences in Opinion; since so "long as this Variety shou'd last, RELI- "GION, they thought, cou'd never be "successfully advanc'd."

To this our Gentleman, at first, answer'd coldly, That "What was *impossible* "to be done, cou'd not, he thought, be "properly pursu'd, as *necessary* to be done." But the Raillery being ill taken, he was forc'd at last to defend himself the best he cou'd,

cou'd, upon this Point ; " *That Variety of Ch. 3.*  
" *Opinions was not to be cur'd.*" And " That ~~~~~  
" 'twas impossible *All shou'd be of one*  
" *Mind.*"

I WELL know, said he, " That many  
" pious Men, seeing the Inconveniences  
" which the Dis-union of Persuasions and  
" Opinions accidentally produces, have  
" thought themselves oblig'd to stop this  
" Inundation of Mischiefs, and have made  
" Attempts accordingly. Some have en-  
" deavour'd to unite these Fractions, by  
" propounding such a GUIDE, as they  
" were all bound to follow ; hoping that  
" *the Unity of a Guide* wou'd have pro-  
" duc'd *Unity of Minds.* But who this  
" GUIDE shou'd be, after all, became  
" such a Question, that 'twas made part of  
" that Fire it-self which was to be extin-  
" guish'd. Others thought of a RULE.—  
" This was to be the effectual Means of  
" Union ! This was to do the Work, or  
" nothing cou'd!—But supposing all the  
" World had been agreed on this RULE,  
" yet the Interpretation of it was so full  
" of Variety, that this also became part of  
" the Disease."

THE Company, upon this Preamble  
of our Gentleman, pref'd harder upon  
him than before ; objecting the Autho-  
rity of *Holy Scripture* against him, and af-  
firming

Misc. 5. firming *this* to be of it-self a sufficient  
~~~~~Guide and Rule. They urg'd again and  
again that known Saying of a fam'd Con-  
troversial Divine of our Church against  
the Divines of another, " That the Scrip-  
" ture, the Scripture was the Religion of  
" Protestants."

To this our Gentleman, at first, reply'd  
only, by desiring them to explain their  
word SCRIPTURE, and by inquiring in-  
to the Original of this Collection of an-  
tienter and later Tracts, which in gene-  
ral they comprehended under that Title:  
Whether it were the *apocryphal* SCRI-  
PTURE, or the more *canonical*? The full  
or the *half*-authoriz'd? The *doubtful*, or  
the *certain*? The *controverted*, or *uncon-  
troverted*? The *singly-read*, or that of  
*various Reading*? The Text of *these* Ma-  
nuscripts, or of *those*? The Transcripts,  
Copys, Titles, Catalogues of *this* Church  
and Nation, or of *that other*? of *this*  
Sect and Party, or of *another*? of *those* in  
*one Age* call'd ORTHODOX, and in pos-  
session of Power, or of *those* who in an-  
other overthrew their *Predecessors* Auth-  
ority, and in their turn also assum'd the  
Guardianship and Power of holy Things?  
For how these sacred Records were guar-  
ded in *those Ages*, might easily, he said;  
be imagin'd by any one who had the least  
Insight into the History of *those TIMES*  
which

which we call'd *primitive*, and the C H A - Ch. 3.  
R A C T E R S of those Men, whom we styl'd ~~the~~  
F A T H E R S of the *Church*.

“ IT must be confess'd, continu'd he,  
“ 'twas a strange Industry and *unlucky* Di-  
“ ligence which was us'd, in this respect,  
“ by these *Ecclesiastical Fore-Fathers*.  
“ Of all those Heresys which gave them  
“ Imployment, we have absolutely no Re-  
“ cord, or Monument, but what them-  
“ selves who were Adversarys have trans-  
“ mitted to us; and we know that Adver-  
“ sarys, especially such who observe all  
“ Opportunitys to discredit both the Per-  
“ sons and Doctrines of their Enemys, are  
“ not always the best Recorders or Wit-  
“ neffes of such Transactions.” We see it  
(continu'd he, in a very emphatical, but  
somewhat embarrass'd Style) “ We see it  
“ now in this very Age, in the present Dis-  
“ temperatures, that Partys are no good  
“ Registers of the Actions of the adverse  
“ Side: And if we cannot be confident of  
“ the Truth of a Story now, (now, I say,  
“ that it is possible for any Man, especially  
“ for the interested Adversary, to discover  
“ the Imposture) it is far more unlikely,  
“ that After-Ages shou'd know any other  
“ Truth than such as serves the ends of the  
“ Representers.”

Misc. 5.

OUR Gentleman by these Expressions had already given considerable Offense to his Zealot-Auditors. They ply'd him faster with passionate Reproaches, than with Arguments or rational Answers. This, however, serv'd only to animate him the more, and made him proceed the more boldly, with the same assum'd Formality, and air of Declamation, in his general CRITICISM of *Holy Literature*.

" THERE are, said he, innumerable  
 " Places that contain (no doubt) great  
 " Mysterys, but so wrap'd in Clouds, or  
 " hid in Umbrages, so heighten'd with  
 " Expressions, or so cover'd with Allego-  
 " rys and Garments of Rhetorick ; so pro-  
 " found in the matter, or so alter'd and  
 " made intricate in the manner ; that they  
 " may seem to have been left as *Trials* of  
 " our Industry, and as *Occasions* and Oppor-  
 " tunitys for the exercise of mutual Cha-  
 " rity and Toleration, rather than as the  
 " Repositorys of FAITH, and Furniture of  
 " Creeds. For when there are found in the  
 " Explications of these Writings, so many  
 " Commentarys ; so many Senses and In-  
 " terpretations ; so many Volumes in all  
 " Ages, and all like Mens Faces, no one  
 " exactly like another : either this Diffe-  
 " rence is absolutely no fault at all ; or if  
 " it be, it is excusable. There are, be-  
 " sides,

“ fides, so many thousands of *Copys* that Ch. 3.  
“ were writ by Persons of several *Interests* ~~~~~  
“ and *Perjuasions*, such different Under-  
“ standings and Tempers, such distinct Abi-  
“ litys and Weaknesses, that ’tis no wonder  
“ there is so great *variety of Readings*:  
“ —whole Verses in *one*, that are not  
“ in *another*: —whole Books admitted  
“ by *one Church or Communion*, which  
“ are rejected by *another*: and whole Sto-  
“ rys and Relations admitted by *some Fa-*  
“ *thers*, and rejected by *others*.—I confi-  
“ der withal, that there have been many  
“ *Designs* and *Views* in expounding these  
“ Writings; many *Senses* in which they  
“ are expounded: and when the *Gramma-*  
“ *tical Sense* is found out, we are many  
“ times never the nearer. Now there be-  
“ ing such variety of *Senses* in Scripture,  
“ and but few Places so mark’d out, as  
“ not to be capable of more than one; if  
“ Men will write *Commentarys by Fancy*,  
“ what infallible *Criterion* will be left to  
“ judg of the *certain Sense* of such Places  
“ as have been the matter of *Question*?  
“ I consider again, that there are indeed  
“ divers Places in these sacred Volumes,  
“ containing in them *Mysterys and Ques-*  
“ *tions of great Concernment*; yet such  
“ is the Fabrick and Constitution of the  
“ Whole, that there is no certain Mark  
“ to determine whether the Sense of these  
“ Passages shou’d be taken as *literal* or *fig-*  
“ *urative*.

Misc. 5. " *gurative.* There is nothing in the na-  
ture of the thing to determine the Sense  
or Meaning : but it must be gotten out  
as it can. And therefore 'tis unreason-  
ably requir'd, That what is of it-self  
ambiguous, shou'd be understood in its  
own prime Sense and Intention, under  
the pain of either a Sin, or an Anathe-  
ma. Very wise Men, even the antient  
Fathers, have expounded things allegori-  
cally, when they shou'd have expounded  
them literally. Others expound things  
literally, when they shou'd understand  
them in Allegory. If such great Spirits  
cou'd be deceiv'd in finding out what  
kind of Senses were to be given to  
Scriptures, it may well be endur'd that  
we, who sit at their Feet, shou'd be sub-  
ject at least to equal Failure. If we  
follow any ONE Translation, or any  
ONE Man's Commentary, what Rule or  
Direction shall we have, by which to  
chuse that ONE aright? Or is there  
any one Man, that hath translated per-  
fectly, or expounded infallibly? If we  
resolve to follow any one as far only as  
we like, or fancy; we shall then only  
do wrong or right by Chance. If we re-  
solve absolutely to follow any-one, whi-  
ther-soever he leads, we shall probably  
come at last, where, if we have any  
Eyes left, we shall see our-selves be-  
come sufficiently ridiculous."

. THE Reader may here perhaps, by his natural Sagacity, remark a certain air of study'd Discourse and Declamation, not so very proper or natural in the mouth of a mere Gentleman, nor suitable to a Company where alternate Discourse is carry'd on, in un-concerted Measure, and un-premeditated Language. Something there was so very emphatical, withal, in the delivery of these words, by the *sceptical* Gentleman ; that some of the Company who were still more incens'd against him for these Expressions, began to charge him as a *Preacher* of pernicious Doctrines, one who attack'd Religion *in form*, and carry'd his Lessons or Lectures about with him, to repeat by rote, at any time, to the *Ignorant* and *Vulgar*, in order to seduce them.

'Tis true indeed, said he, Gentlemen ! that what I have here ventur'd to repeat, is address'd chiefly to those you call *Ignorant* ; such, I mean, as being otherwise engag'd in the World, have had little time perhaps to bestow upon Inquirys into Divinity-Matters. As for you, Gentlemen ! in particular, who are so much displeas'd with my *Freedom* ; I am well asfur'd, you are in effect so able and knowing, that the Truth of every Assertion I have advanc'd is sufficiently understood and acknowledg'd by you ; however it

Misc. 5. may happen, that, in your great Wisdom,  
 you think it proper to conceal these Matters from such Persons as you are pleas'd  
 to style *the Vulgar.*

"Tis true, withal, Gentlemen! continu'd he, I will confess to you, That the words you have heard repeated, are not my own. They are no other than what have been publickly and solemnly deliver'd, even by \* one of the Episcopal Order, a celebrated *Churchman*, and one of the *highest* sort; as appears by his many devo-

\* The pious and learned *Bishop TAYLOR*, in his Treatise on the *Liberty of Propheſing*, printed in his Collection of Polemical and Moral Discourses, Anno 1657. The Pages answering to the Places above-cited are 401, 402, (and in the Epistle-Dedicatory, three or four Leaves before) 438, 439 — 444, 451, 452. After which, in the succeeding Page, he sums up his Sense on this Subject of sacred Literature, and the Liberty of Criticism, and of private Judgment and Opinion in these Matters, in the following words: " Since there are so many Copy's, with infinite Varietys of Reading; since a various Interpunction, a Parenthesis, a Letter, an Accent may much alter the Sense; since some Places have divers literal Senses, many have spiritual, mystical, and allegorical Meanings; since there are so many Tropes, Metonymys, Ironys, Hyperboles, Proprietys and Improprieties of Language, whose understanding depends upon such Circumstances, that it is almost impossible to know the proper Interpretation, now that the knowledg of such Circumstances and particular Storys is irrecoverably lost: since there are some Mysterys, which at the best Advantage of Expression, are not easy to be apprehended, and whose Explication, by reason of our Imperfections, must needs be dark, sometimes weak, sometimes unintelligible: And lastly, since those ordinary means of expounding Scripture, as searching the Originals, Conference of Places, Par-

" rity

devotional Works, which carry the Rites, Ch. 3. Ceremonys and Pomp of Worship, with the Honour and Dignity of the Priestly and Episcopal Order, to the highest Degree. In effect, we see the Reverend Doctor's Treatises standing, as it were, in the Front of this Order of Authors, and

"*rity of Reason, and Analogy of Faith, are all dubious, uncertain, and very fallible ; he that is the wisest, and by consequence the likeliest to expound truest, in all probability of Reason, will be very far from Confidence ; because every one of these, and many more, are like so many degrees of Improbability and Incertainty, all depressing our Certainty of finding out Truth, in such Mysterys, and amidst so many Difficultys.* And therefore a wise Man that considers this, wou'd not willingly be prescrib'd to by others ; for it is best every Man shou'd be left in that liberty, from which no Man can justly take him, unless he cou'd secure him from Error."

'The Reverend Prelate had but a few Pages before (*viz. pag. 427.*) acknowledged, indeed, "That we had an Apostolical Warrant to contend earnestly for the Faith. But then," (says the good Bishop, very candidly and ingenuously) "As these Things recede farther from the Foundation, our Certainty is the less.—And therefore it were very fit that our Confidence shou'd be according to our Evidence, and our Zeal according to our Confidence." He adds, *pag. 507.* All these Disputes concerning Tradition, Councils, Fathers, &c. are not Arguments against or besides Reason, but Contentations and Pretences of the best Arguments, and the most certain Satisfaction of our Reason. But then all these coming into question, submit themselves to Reason, that is, to be judg'd by human Understanding, upon the best Grounds and Information it can receive. So that Scripture, Tradition, Councils, and Fathers, are the Evidence in a Question, but Reason is the Judg : That is, we being the Persons that are to be persuaded, we must see that we be persuaded reasonably ; and it is unreasonable to assent to a lesser Evidence, when a greater and clearer is propounded : but of that every Man for himself is to take cognizance, if he be able to judg ; if he be not, he is not bound under the tie of necessity to know any thing of it."

Misc. 5. as the foremost of those *Good-Books* us'd  
by the politeſt and moſt refin'd *Devotees*  
of either Sex. They maintain the prin-  
cipal Place in the Study of almoſt every  
elegant and high *Divine*. They ſtand in  
Folio's and other Volumes, adorn'd with  
variety of Pictures, Gildings, and other  
Decorations, on the advanc'd Shelves or  
Glaſs-Cupboards of the *Lady's* Clofets.  
They are in uſe at all Seasons, and for all  
Places, as well for Church-Service as Clo-  
fet-Preparation; and, in ſhort, may vie  
with any devotional Books in *British*  
*Chriftendom*. And for the Life and Cha-  
racter of the Man himſelf; I leave it to  
you, Gentlemen, (you, I mean, of the  
*Zealot*-kind) to except againſt it, if you  
think proper. 'Tis your *Manner*, I know,  
and what you never fail to have recourse  
to, when any Authority is produc'd a-  
gainſt you. Personal Reſlection is always  
feafonable, and at hand, on ſuch an occa-  
ſion. No matter what Virtue, Honesty,  
or Sanctity may lie in the Character of  
the Person cited. No matter tho he be  
ever fo much, in other respects, of your  
own Party, and devoted to your Interest.  
If he has indiſcreetly ſpoken ſome Home-  
Truth, or diſcover'd ſome Secret which  
ſtrikes at the temporal Interests of certain  
ſpiritual Societys; he is quickly doom'd  
to Calumny and Defamation.

I SHALL try this Experiment, however, once more, (contin'd our Gentleman) and as a Conclusion to this Discourse, will venture to produce to you a further Authority of the same kind. You shall have it before you, in the exact Phrase and Words of the great Author, in his *theological Capacity*; since I have now no further occasion to conceal my Citations, and accommodate them to the more familiar Style and Language of Conversation.

OUR excellent \* Archbishop, and late Father of our Church, when expressly treating that very Subject of a RULE *in matters of Belief*, in opposition to Mr. S... and Mr. R..... his Romish Antagonists, shews plainly how great a shame it is, for us *Protestants* at least, (whatever the Case may be with *Romanists*) to disallow *Difference of Opinions*, and forbid private *Examination*, and *Search* into matters of *antient RECORD*, and *scriptural TRADITION*; when, at the same time, we have no pretence to *oral* or *verbal*; no Claim to any absolute superior Judg, or decisive Judgment in the Case; no Polity, Church, or Community; no particular

\* Viz. Archbishop TILLOTSON in his *Rule of Faith*, pag. 677.

Misc 5. Man, or number of Men, who are not,  
even by our own Confession, plainly *fallible*, and subject to *Error* and *Mistake*.

"THE Protestants" (says his Grace, speaking in the Person of Mr. S ... and the *Romanists*) "cannot know how many the Books of Scripture ought to be; and *Which* of the many controverted ones may be securely put in that Catalogue; *Which* not.—But I shall tell him, replies his Grace, That we know that just so many ought to be receiv'd as *un-controverted* Books, concerning which it cannot be shewn *there was ever any Controversy*." It was not incumbent perhaps on my Lord Archbishop to help Mr. S..... so far in his Objection, as to add, That in reality the *burning*, *suppressing*, and *interpolating* Method, so early in fashion, and so tightly practis'd on the *Epistles*, *Comments*, *Historys*, and *Writings* of the Orthodox and Hereticks of old, made it impossible to say with any kind of Assurance, "What Books, *Copys*, or *Transcripts* those were, concerning which there was never any Controversy at all." This indeed wou'd be a Point not so easily to be demonstrated. But his Grace proceeds, in shewing the Weakness of the Romish Pillar, TRADITION. "For it must either, says he, acknowledg *some* Books to have been controverted, or not. If not,

" not, why doth he make a Supposition Ch. 3.  
 " of controverted Books? If Oral Tradition  
 " acknowledges some Books to have  
 " been controverted; then it cannot af-  
 " sure us that they have not been con-  
 " troverted, nor consequently that they  
 " ought to be receiv'd as never having  
 " been controverted; but only as such,  
 " concerning which those Churches who did  
 " once raise a Controversy about them, have  
 " been since satisfy'd that they are \* Canoni-  
 " cal.—Where is then the Infallibility  
 " of Oral Tradition? How does the living  
 " Voice of the present Church assure us,  
 " that what Books are now receiv'd by  
 " Her, were ever receiv'd by Her? And  
 " if it cannot do this, but the matter  
 " must come to be try'd by the best Re-  
 " cords of former Ages, (which the Pro-  
 " testants are willing to have the Catalogue  
 " try'd by) then it seems the Protestants  
 " have a better way to know what Books  
 " are Canonical, than is the infallible way

\* His Grace subjoins immediately: " The Traditional  
 " Church now, receives the Epistle to the Hebrews as Canonical.  
 " I ask, Do they receive it as ever deliver'd for such?  
 " That they must, if they receive it from Oral Tradition,  
 " which conveys things to them under this Notion as ever  
 " deliver'd; and yet St. Hierom (speaking not as a Speculator,  
 " but a Testifier) says expressly of it, *That the Custom of*  
*the Latin Church doth not receive it among the Canonical*  
*Scriptures.* What faith Mr. S.... to this? It is clear  
 " from this Testimony, that the Roman Church in St. Hierom's time did not acknowledg this Epistle for Canonical;  
 " and 'tis as plain, that the present Roman Church doth receive it for Canonical."

Misc. 5. " of Oral Tradition. And so long as 'tis  
 ~~~~~ " better, no matter tho it be not call'd  
 " Infallible." —

THUS the free and generous Archbishop. For, indeed, what greater *Generosity* is there, than in owning TRUTH frankly and openly, even where the greatest Advantages may be taken by an Adversary? Accordingly, our worthy Archbishop, speaking again immediately in the Person of his Adversary, " The Protectors, says \* he, cannot know that the very *Original*, or a *perfectly true Copy* of these Books, hath been preserv'd. Nor is it necessary, replies the Archbishop, that they shou'd know either of these. It is sufficient that they know that those Copys which they have, are not materially corrupted. — But how do the Church of *Rome* know that they have *perfectly true Copys* of the Scriptures in the *original Languages*? They do not pretend to know this. The learned Men of that Church acknowledg the various *Readings* as well as we, and do not pretend to know, otherwise than by *probable Conjecture*, (as we also may do) Which of those *Readings* is the *true-one* †." —

AND

\* Pag. 678.

† The Reader perhaps may find it worth while to read after this, what the Archbishop represent's (pag. 716, &c.) of the

AND thus, continu'd our Lay-Gentleman, I have finish'd my *Quotations*, which I have been necessitated to bring in my own Defense ; to prove to you That I have asserted nothing on this Head of *Religion, Faith*, or the Sacred *Mysterys*, which has not been justify'd and confirm'd by the most celebrated *Church-Men* and respected *Divines*. You may now proceed in your *Invectives* ; bestowing as free Language of that kind, as your *Charity* and *Breeding* will permit. And You, Reverend SIRS ! who have assum'd a Character which sets you

the plausible Introduction of the grossest Article of Belief, in the times when the Habit of making Creeds came in fashion. And accordingly it may be understand, of what effect the *dogmatizing Practice* in Divinity has ever been. " We will suppose then, that about the time, when universal *Ignorance*, and the genuine Daughter of it, (call her *Devotion* or *Superstition*) had over-spread the World, and the generality of People were strongly inclin'd to believe *strange things* ; and even the greatest Contradictions were recommended to them under the notion of *M Y S T E R Y S*, being told by their *Priests* and *Guides*, That the more contradictory any thing is to Reason, the greater merit there is in believing it : I say, let us suppose, that in this state of things, one or more of the most Eminent then in the Church, either out of Design, or out of superstitious Ignorance and Mistake of the Sense of our Saviour's Words used in the Consecration of the Sacrament, shou'd advance this new Doctrine, that the words of Consecration, &c. \* \* \* Such a Doctrine as this was very likely to be advanced by the ambitious *Clergy* of that time, as a probable means to draw in the People to a greater Veneration of them. \* \* \* Nor was such a Doctrine less likely to take and prevail among the *People*, in an Age prodigiously ignorant and strongly inclin'd to Superstition, and thereby well- " prepar'd

Misc. 5. you above that of the mere Gentleman, and ~~✓✓~~ releases you from those *Decorums*, and constraining *Measures of Behaviour* to which we of an inferior sort are bound ; You may liberally deal your *religious Compliments* and *Salutations* in what *Dialect* you think fit ; since for my own part, neither the Names of HETERODOX, SCHISMATICK, HERETICK, SCEPTICK, nor even INFIDEL, or ATHEIST it-self, will in the least scandalize me, whilst the Sentence comes only from *your mouths*. On the contrary, I rather strive with myself to suppress whatever Vanity might naturally arise in me, from such *Favour* bestow'd. For whatever may, in the bot-

“ prepar'd to receive the grossest Absurdities under the notion  
 “ of *Mysterys*. \* \* \* Now supposing such a Doctrine as  
 “ this, so fitted to the Humour and Temper of the Age, to  
 “ be once asserted either by chance or out of design, it  
 “ wou'd take like *Wild-fire* ; especially if by some one or  
 “ more who bore sway in the Church, it were but recom-  
 “ mended with *convenient Gravity and Solemnity*. \* \* \* \*  
 “ And for the Contradictions contain'd in this Doctrine, it  
 “ was but telling the People *then*, (as they do in effect *now*)  
 “ That Contradictions ought to be no Scruple in the way of  
 “ Faith ; That the more impossible any thing is, 'tis the fitter  
 “ to be believ'd ; That it is not praise-worthy to believe  
 “ plain Possibilitys, but this is the Gallantry and heroical  
 “ Power of Faith, this is the way to oblige God Almighty for  
 “ ever to us, to believe flat and downright Contradictions.  
 “ \* \* \* The more absurd and unreasonableness any thing is, it  
 “ is for that very reason the more proper matter for an Arti-  
 “ cle of Faith. And if any of these Innovations be objec-  
 “ ted against, as contrary to former Belief and Practice, it  
 “ is but putting forth a lusty Act of Faith, and believing ano-  
 “ ther Contradiction, That tho' they be contrary, yet they are  
 “ the same.” Above, pag. 80, 1, 2.

tom,

com, be intended me, by such a Treat-Ch. 3.  
ment ; 'tis impossible for me to term it ~  
other than *Favour* ; since there are certain  
Enmitys, which it will be ever esteem'd a  
real Honour to have merited.

IF, contrary to the Rule and Measure  
of Conversation, I have drawn the Com-  
pany's Attention towards me thus long,  
without affording them an Intermission,  
during my Recital ; they will, I hope,  
excuse me, the rather, because they heard  
the other *Recitals*, and were Witnesses to  
the heavy Charge and personal Reflection,  
which without any real Provocation was  
made upon me in publick, by these *Zeal-*  
*lot-Gentlemen*, to whom I have thus re-  
ply'd. And notwithstanding they may,  
after such Breaches of Charity as are usual  
with them, presume me equally out of  
Charity, on my own side ; I will take up-  
on me however to give them this good  
Advice, at parting : " That since they  
" have of late been so elated by some  
" seeming Advantages, and a Prosperity,  
" which they are ill fitted to bear ; they  
" wou'd at least beware of accumula-  
" ting too hastily those high Characters,  
" Appellations, Titles, and Ensigns of  
" Power, which may be Tokens, perhaps,  
" of what they expect hereafter, but  
" which, as yet, do not answer the real  
" Power and Authority bestow'd on them."

The

Misc. 5. The *Garb* and *Countenance* will be more  
graceful, when the *Thing* it-self is secur'd  
to 'em, and in their actual possession.  
Mean while, the Anticipation of high Ti-  
tles, Honours, and nominal Dignitys, be-  
yond the common Style and antient Usage;  
tho' it may be highly fashionable at pre-  
sent, may not prove beneficial or advan-  
tageous in the end.

I wou'd, in particular, advise my  
elegant Antagonists of this *Zealot*-kind;  
That among the many Titles they assume  
to themselves, they wou'd be rather more  
sparing in that high-one of E M B A S S A-  
D O R, till such time as they have just  
Means and Foundation to join that of  
P L E N I P O T E N T I A R Y together with it.  
For as matters stand hitherto in our *British*  
*World*, neither their Commission *from the*  
*Sovereign*, nor that which they pretend  
*from Heaven*, amounts to any absolute or  
determining *Power*.

T H E first holy MESSEN GERS (for  
That I take to be the highest *apostolick*  
Name) brought with them their proper  
Testimonials, in their *Lives*, their *Manners*  
and *Behaviour*; as well as in *powerful*  
*Works*, MIRACLES, and SIGNS from  
*Heaven*. And tho' indeed it might well  
be esteem'd a *Miracle* in the kind, shou'd  
our *present* MESSEN GERS go about to  
represent

represent their *Predecessors* in any part of Ch. 3. their Demeanour or Conversation; yet there are further *Miracles* remaining for 'em to perform, ere they can in modesty plead the *Apostolick* or *Messenger-Authority*. For tho, in the torrent of a sublime and figurative Style, a *holy Apostle* may have made use, perhaps, of such a Phrase as that of E M B A S S Y or E M B A S S A D O R, to express the Dignity of his Errand; 'twere to be wish'd that some who were never sent of any Errand or Message at all from G O D *himself*, wou'd use a modester Title to express their voluntary *Negotiation* between U S and H E A V E N.

I MUST confess, for my own part, that I think the Notion of an E M B A S S Y from *thence* to be at best somewhat high-strain'd, in the metaphorical way of Speech. But certain I am, that if there be any such *Residentship* or *Agentship* now establish'd; 'tis not immediately from G O D *himself*, but thro' the *Magistrate*, and by the *Prince* or *Sovereign Power* here on Earth, that these Gentlemen-*Agents* are appointed, distinguish'd, and set over us. They have undoubtedly a \* legal C H A R T E R, and *Character*, legal *Titles*, and *Precedencys*, legal *Habits*, *Coats of Arms*, *Colours*, *Badges*.

\* V O L. I. pag. 362.

But

Misc. 5. But they may do well to consider, That a  
~~~~ thousand Badges or Liverys bestow'd by  
MEN merely, can never be sufficient to  
entitle 'em to the same Authority as Theirs,  
who bore the immediate Testimony and  
MIRACULOUS SIGNS of Power, from  
ABOVE. For in this case, there was  
need only of Eyes, and ordinary Senses, to  
distinguish the COMMISSION, and ac-  
knowledg the EMBASSY or MESSAGE  
as divine.

BUT allowing it ever so certain a Truth,  
“ That there has been a thousand or near  
“ two thousand Years Succession in this  
“ Commission of EMBASSY:” Where  
shall we find this *Commission* to have lain? — How has it been supply'd still, or re-  
new'd? — How often dormant? — How  
often divided, even in one and the same  
Species of Claimants? — What Party are  
they, among Moderns, who by virtue of  
any immediate Testimonial from Heaven are  
thus intitled? — Where are the LETTERS-PATENT? The CREDENTIALS? For these shou'd, in the nature of the  
thing, be open, visible, and apparent.

A CERTAIN INDIAN of the Train  
of the Ambassador-Princes sent to us lately  
from some of those Pagan Nations, being  
engag'd, one Sunday, in visiting our Chur-  
ches, and happening to ask his Interpreter,  
“ Who

“ Who the eminent Persons were whom he Ch. 3.  
 “ observ’d haranguing so long, with such u  
 “ Authority from a high Place ?” was  
 answer’d, “ They were *Embassadors* from  
 “ the ALMIGHTY, or (according to the  
 “ Indian Language) from the SUN.”

Whether the INDIAN took this seriously  
 or in raillery, did not appear. But hav-  
 ing afterwards call’d in, as he went along,  
 at the Chapels of some of his Brother-  
 Embassadors, of the *Romish* Religion, and  
 at some other Christian Dissenting Congre-  
 gations, where Matters, as he perceiv’d,  
 were transacted with greater Privacy, and  
 inferior State ; he ask’d, “ Whether *These*  
 “ also were *Embassadors* from the same  
 “ Place.” He was answer’d, “ That  
 “ they had indeed been heretofore of the  
 “ Embassy, and had Possession of the  
 “ same chief Places he had seen : But  
 “ they were now succeeded there, by O-  
 “ thers. If *those* therefore, reply’d  
 “ the INDIAN, were *Embassadors* from  
 “ the SUN ; *these*, I take for granted, are  
 “ from the MOON.”

SUPPOSING, indeed, one had been no  
*Pagan*, but *a good Christian* ; conversant  
 in the original *Holy Scriptures*, but unac-  
 quainted with the Rites, Titles, Habits  
 and Ceremonials, of which there is no  
 mention in those Writings : Might one not  
 have inquir’d, with humble Submission, in-

Misc. 5. to this Affair? Might one not have softly,  
and at a distance, apply'd for information  
concerning this *high E M B A S S Y*; and ad-  
dressing perhaps to some inferior Officer  
or Livery-Man of the *Train*, ask'd modestly,  
“How and *Whence* they came? Whose  
“*Equipage* they appear'd in? At Whose  
“*Charges* they were entertain'd? and by  
“Whose *Suffrage* or *Command* appointed  
“and authoriz'd? — Is it true, pray  
“SIRS! that their *Excellencys* of the pre-  
“sent Establishment, are the *sole-commis-  
“sion'd?* Or are there as many *real Com-  
“missioners* as there are Pretenders? If so;  
“there can be no great danger for us,  
“which-ever way we apply our-selves.  
“We have ample Choice, and may ad-  
“here to *which COMMISSION we like  
“best.* If there be only ONE single  
“TRUE-one; we have then, it seems,  
“good reason to look about us, search  
“narrowly into the Affair, be scrupulous  
“in our Choice, and (as the current *Phy-  
“sick-Bills* admonish us) *beware of Coun-  
“terfeits*; since there are so many of these  
“abroad, with *earthly Powers*, and *tem-  
“poral COMMISSIONS*, to back their  
“*Spiritual Pretenses.*” —

’T IS to be fear'd, in good earnest, that the  
Discernment of this kind will prove pretty  
difficult; especially amidst this universal  
*Contention, Embroil, and Fury of religious  
Chal-*

Challengers, these high *Defiances* of con-Ch. 3.  
trary Believers; this zealous Opposition of   
*Commission to Commission*; and this Din of  
*Hell, Anathema's, and Damnations*, rais'd  
every where by one religious Party against  
another.

So far are the pretendedly *commission'd*  
*Partys* from producing their *Commission*  
openly, or proving it from the original  
Record, or Court-Rolls of Heaven, that  
they deny us inspection into these very  
Records they plead, and refuse to submit  
their *Title* to human Judgment or Exam-  
ination.

A POET of our Nation insinuates in-  
deed in their behalf, That they are fair  
enough in this respect. For when the  
murmuring People, speaking by their cho-  
sen ORATOR, or *Spokeſ-man*, to the  
Priests, says to 'em,

(Care;  
With Ease you take what we provide with  
And we who your LEGATION must  
maintain,  
Find all your Tribe in the Commission are,  
And none but HEAV'N cou'd send so  
large a TRAIN;

The APOLOGIST afterwards excusing  
this Boldness of the People, and soothing  
the incens'd Priests with fairer Words,

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Z

says

Misc. 5. says to 'em, on a foot of *Moderation*, which  
 ~~~ he presumes to be their Character :

\* *You with such Temper their Intemperance bear,  
 To shew your solid Science does rely  
 So on it-self, as you no Trial fear :  
 For Arts are weak that are of SCEPTICKS shy.*

The Poet, it seems, never dreamt of a time when the very *Cointenance* of *Moderation* shou'd be out of fashion with the Gentlemen of this Order, and the *Word* it-self exploded as unworthy of their *Profession*. And, indeed, so far are they at present from bearing with any *SCEPTICK*, or *Inquirer*, ever so *modest* or discreet, that to hear an Argument on a contrary side to theirs, or read whatever may be writ in answer to their particular *Affertions*, is made the highest Crime. Whilst they have among themselves such Differences, and sharp Debates, about their *heavenly COMMISSION*, and are even *in one and the same* Community or Establishment, divided into different *Sects* and *Headships*; they will allow no particular Survey or Inspection into the Foundations of their controverted Title. They wou'd have us inferior passive Mortals, amaz'd

\* GONDIBERT, Book ii. Canto 1.

as we are, and beholding with astonish-Ch. 3.  
ment from afar these tremendous Subjects  
of Dispute, wait blindfold the Event and  
final Decision of the Controversy. Nor is  
it enough that we are merely *passive*. 'Tis  
requir'd of us, That in the midst of this  
irreconcilable Debate concerning heavenly  
*Authorys* and *Powers*, we shou'd be as  
confident of the Veracity of *some one*, as of  
the Imposture and Cheat of *all the other*  
Pretenders: and that believing firmly there  
is still *A real COMMISSION* at the bot-  
tom, we shou'd endure the Misery of these  
Conflicts, and engage on one side or the  
other, as we happen to have our Birth or  
Education; till by *Fire and Sword, Execution,* *Massacre*, and a kind of *Depopula-*  
*tion* of this Earth, it be \* determin'd at  
last amongst us, " Which is the *true COM-*  
*MISSION, exclusive* of all others, and  
" superior to the rest."

HERE our *secular GENTLEMAN*,  
who in the latter end of his Discourse had  
already made several Motions and Ges-  
tures which betoken'd a Retreat, made  
his final Bow in form, and quitted the  
Place and Company for that time; till (as  
he told his Auditors) he had another Op-

\* *Supra*, pag. 89.

Misc. 5. portunity, and fresh Leisure to hear, in his  
~~~~ turn, whatever his *Antagonists* might a-  
new object to him, in a Manner more fa-  
vourable and moderate; or, if they so ap-  
prov'd, in the same *Temper*, and with the  
same *Zeal* as they had done before.

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## TREATISE

# T R E A T I S E VII.

VIZ.

## A NOTION of the *Historical* *Draught* or *Tablature*

O F T H E

## Judgment of *Hercules*,

According to PRODICUS, *Lib. II. Xen. de Mem. Soc.*

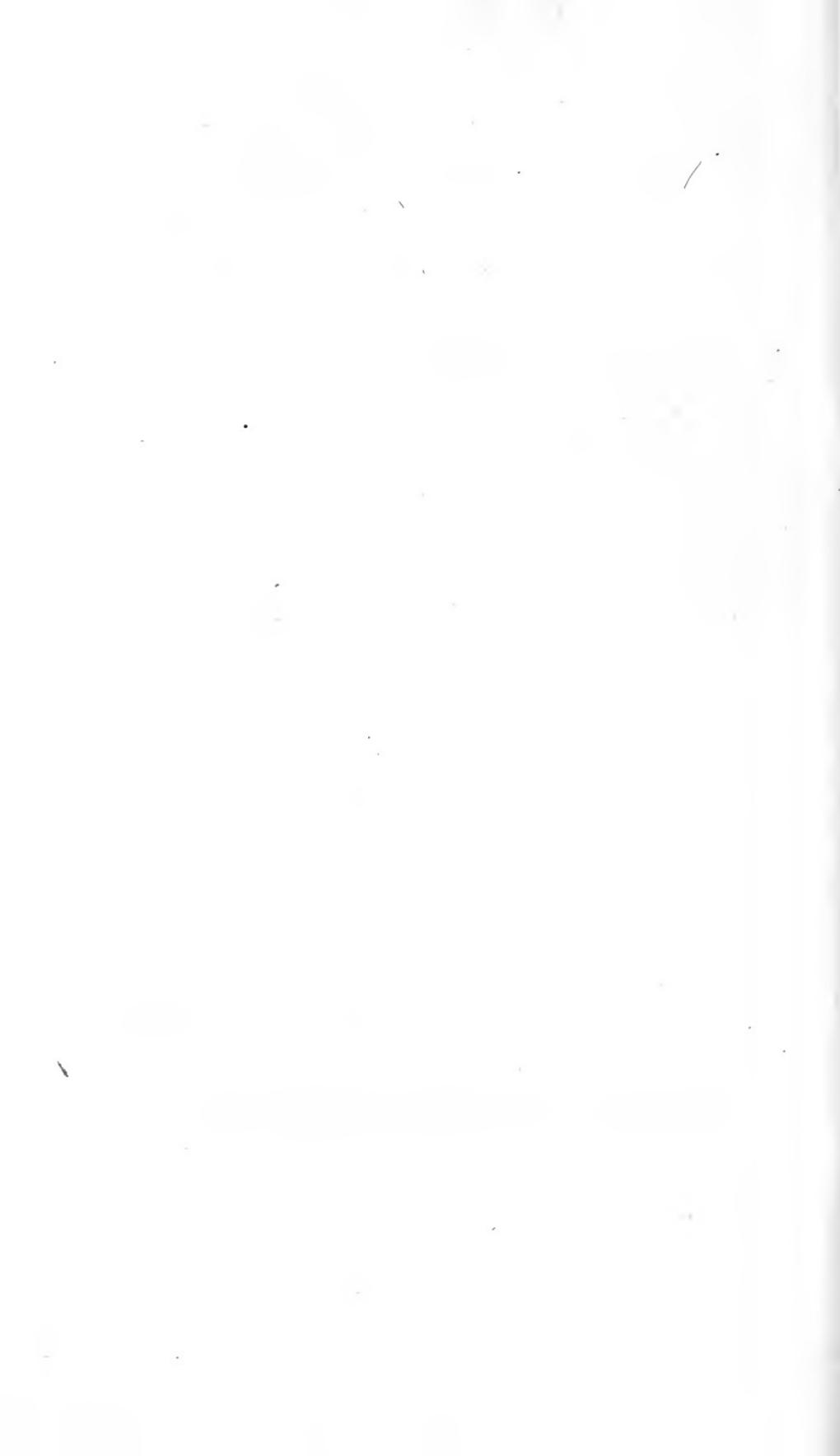
With a Letter concerning DESIGN.

---

Potiores  
HERCULIS ærumnas credat, fævosque Labores,  
Et Venere, & cœnis, & plumâ SARDANAPALI.  
*Juv. Sat. 10.*

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Printed first in the Year M.DCC.XIII.





*Paulo de Mattais Pinx:*      **T H E**      *Sim: Gribelin sculps.*

# Judgment of *Hercules*.

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## INTRODUCTION.

(1.) **B**EFORE we enter on the Examination of our Historical Sketch, it may be proper to remark, that by the word *Tablature* (for which we have yet no name in *English*, besides the general one of *Picture*) we denote, according to the original word **T A B U L A**, a Work not only distinct from a mere *Portraiture*, but from all those wilder sorts of Painting which

are in a manner absolute, and independent; such as the Paintings *in Fresco* upon the Walls, the Cielings, the Stair-Cases, the Cupolo's, and other remarkable Places either of Churches or Palaces.

(2.) ACCORDINGLY we are to understand, that it is not merely the Shape or Dimension of a Cloth, or Board, which denominates the *Piece* or *Tablature*; since a Work of this kind may be compos'd of any colour'd Substance, as it may of any Form; whether square, oval or round. But 'tis then that in Painting we may give to any particular Work the Name of *Tablature*, when the Work is in reality " *a Single Piece*, comprehended in one *View*, " and form'd according to *one single Intelligence*, Meaning, or Design; which " constitutes a *real WHOLE*, by a mutual " and necessary Relation of its Parts, the " same as of the Members in a natural " Body." So that one may say of a Picture compos'd of any number of Figures differently rang'd, and without any regard to this Correspondency or Union describ'd, That it is no more a real *Piece* or *Tablature*, than a Picture wou'd be a Man's *Picture*, or proper *Portraiture*, which represented on the same Cloth, in different places, the Legs, Arms, Nose, and Eyes of such a Person, without adjusting them according to the true Proportion, Air, and Character which belong'd to him.

(3.) THIS

(3.) THIS Regulation has place even in the inferior degrees of Painting; since the mere Flower-Painter is, we see, oblig'd to study the Form of *Festons*, and to make use of a peculiar Order, or Architecture of *Vases*, *Jars*, *Cannisters*, *Pedestals*, and other Inventions, which serve as *Machines*, to frame a certain proportionate Assemblage, or united Mass; according to the Rules of Perspective; and with regard as well to the different shapes and sizes of his several Flowers, as to the harmony of Colours resulting from the whole: this being the only thing capable of rendering his Work worthy the name of a *Composition* or *real Piece*.

(4.) So much the more, therefore, is this Regulation applicable to *History-Painting*, where not only *Men*, but *Manners*, and human Passions are represented. Here the *Unity of Design* must with more particular exactness be preserv'd, according to the just Rules of poetick Art; that in the Representation of any Event, or remarkable Fact, the *Probability*, or seeming *Truth*, which is the *real Truth* of Art, may with the highest advantage be supported and advanc'd: as we shall better understand in the Argument which follows on the historical *Tablature* of *The Judgment of HERCULES*; who being young, and re-

Ch. i. tir'd to a solitary place in order to deliberate on the Choice he was to make of the different ways of Life, was accosted (as our Historian relates) by the two Goddesses, VIRTUE and PLEASURE. 'Tis on the issue of the Controversy between these Two, that the Character of HERCULES depends. So that we may naturally give to this Piece and History, as well the Title of *The Education*, as *the Choice or Judgment of Hercules*.

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## C H A P. I.

### *Of the general Constitution or Ordinance of the Tablature.*

(1.) THIS Fable or History may be variously represented, according to the Order of Time:

Either in the instant when the two Goddesses, VIRTUE and PLEASURE, accost HERCULES;

Or when they are enter'd on their Dispute;

Or when their Dispute is already far advanc'd, and VIRTUE seems to gain her Cause.

(2.) ACCORDING to the *first* Nation, HERCULES must of necessity seem surpriz'd

surpriz'd on the first appearance of such Ch. 1. miraculous Forms. He admires, he contemplates; but is not yet ingag'd or interested. According to the *second* Notion, he is interested, divided, and in doubt. According to the *third*, he is wrought, agitated, and torn by contrary Passions. 'Tis the last Effort of the vicious one, striving for possession over him. He agonizes, and with all his Strength of Reason endeavours to overcome himself :

(borat.

*Et premitur ratione animus, vincique la-*

(3.) O F these different Periods of Time, the latter has been chosen; as being the only one of the three, which can well serve to express the *grand Event*, or consequent *Resolution* of HERCULES, and the *Choice* he actually made of a Life full of Toil and Hardship, under the conduct of VIRTUE, for the deliverance of Mankind from Tyranny and Oppression. And 'tis to such a *Piece*, or *Tablature*, as represents this Issue of the Balance, in our pondering Hero, that we may justly give the Title of the *Decision or Judgment of HERCULES*.

(4.) T H E same History may be represented yet according to a *fourth* Date or Period: as at the time when HERCULES is intirely won by *Virtue*. But then the signs of this resolute Determination reign-

Ch. i. ing absolutely in the Attitude, and Air of  
 our young Hero ; there wou'd be no room left to represent his Agony, or inward Conflict, which indeed makes the principal Action *here* ; as it wou'd do in a Poem, were this Subject to be treated by a good Poet. Nor wou'd there be any more room left in this case, either for the persuasive Rhetorick of VIRTUE, who must have already ended her Discourse, or for the insinuating Address of PLEASURE, who having lost her Cause, must necessarily appear displeas'd, or out of humour : a Circumstance which wou'd no way sute her Character.

(5.) IN the original Story or Fable of this Adventure of our young HERCULES, 'tis particularly noted, that PLEASURE, advancing hastily before VIRTUE, began her Plea, and was heard with prevention ; as being first in turn. And as this Fable is wholly *philosophical* and *moral*, this Circumstance in particular is to be consider'd as essential.

(6.) IN this *third* Period therefore of our History (dividing it, as we have done, into *four* successive Dates or Points of Time) HERCULES being Auditor, and attentive, speaks not. PLEASURE has spoken. VIRTUE is still speaking. She is about the middle, or towards the end of her

her Discourse; in the place where, accord- Ch. 1.  
ing to just Rhetorick, the highest Tone of  Voice and strongest Action are employ'd.

(7.) 'Tis evident, that every Master in Painting, when he has made choice of the determinate Date or Point of Time, according to which he wou'd represent his History, is afterwards debar'd the taking advantage from any other Action than what is immediately present, and belonging to that single Instant he describes. For if he passes the present only for a moment, he may as well pass it for many years. And by this reckoning he may with as good right repeat the same Figure several times over, and in one and the same Picture represent HERCULES in his Cradle, struggling with the Serpents; and the same HERCULES of full Age, fighting with the *Hydra*, with *Anteus*, and with *Cerberus*: which wou'd prove a mere confus'd Heap, or Knot of Pieces, and not a single intire *Piece*, or *Tablature*, of the historical kind.

(8.) IT may however be allowable, on some occasions, to make use of certain *enigmatical* or *emblematical* Devises, to represent a future Time: as when HERCULES, yet a mere Boy, is seen holding a small Club, or wearing the Skin of a young Lion. For so we often find him in  
the

Ch. I. the best *Antiques*. And tho History had  
never related of HERCULES, that being  
yet very young, he kill'd a Lion with his  
own hand; this Representation of him  
wou'd nevertheless be intirely conformable  
to poetick *Truth*; which not only admits,  
but necessarily presupposes *Prophecy* or  
*Prognostication*, with regard to the Actions,  
and Lives of Heroes and Great Men. Be-  
sides that as to our Subject, in particular,  
the natural Genius of HERCULES, even in  
his tenderest Youth, might alone answer  
for his handling such Arms as these, and  
bearing, as it were in play, these early  
tokens of the future Hero.

(9.) To preserve therefore a just Confor-  
mity with *historical Truth*, and with the  
*Unity of Time* and *Action*, there remains  
no other way by which we can possibly  
give a hint of any thing future, or call to  
mind any thing past, than by setting in view  
such Passages or Events as have actually  
subsisted, or according to Nature might well  
subsist, or happen together in *one and the  
same instant*. And this is what we may  
properly call *The Rule of Consistency*.

(10.) How is it therefore possible, says  
one, to express a Change of Passion in any  
Subject, since this Change is made by Suc-  
cession; and that in this case the Passion  
which is understood as present, will re-  
quire

quire a Disposition of Body and Features Ch. I.  
wholly different from the Passion which is ~~~  
over, and past? To this we answer, That  
notwithstanding the Ascendency or Reign  
of the principal and immediate Passion, the  
Artist has power to leave still in his Subject  
the Tracts or Footsteps of its Predecessor:  
so as to let us behold not only a rising Pa-  
ssion together with a declining one; but,  
what is more, a strong and determinate  
Passion, with its contrary already discharg'd  
and banish'd. As for instance, when the  
plain Tracts of Tears new fallen, with  
other fresh tokens of Mourning and De-  
jection, remain still in a Person newly  
transported with Joy at the sight of a Re-  
lation or Friend, who the moment before  
had been lamented as one deceas'd or lost.

(ii.) AGAIN, by the same means which  
are employ'd to call to mind *the Past*, we  
may anticipate *the Future*: as wou'd be  
seen in the case of an able Painter, who  
shou'd undertake to paint this History of  
HERCULES according to the third Date  
or Period of Time propos'd for our histo-  
rical Tablature. For in this momentary  
Turn of Action, HERCULES remaining  
still in a situation expressive of Suspense  
and Doubt, wou'd discover nevertheless  
that the Strength of this inward Conflict  
was over, and that Victory began now to  
declare her-self in favour of *Virtue*. This

Ch. i. Transition, which seems at first so mysterious a Performance, will be easily comprehended, if one considers, That the Body, which moves much slower than the Mind, is easily out-strip'd by this latter; and that the Mind on a sudden turning itself some new way, the nearer situated and more sprightly parts of the Body (such as the Eyes, and Muscles about the Mouth and Forehead) taking the alarm, and moving in an instant, may leave the heavier and more distant Parts to adjust themselves, and change their Attitude some moments after.

(12.) THIS different Operation may be distinguish'd by the names of *Anticipation* and *Repeal*.

(13.) IF by any other method an Artist shou'd pretend to introduce into this Piece any portion of Time, future or past, he must either sin directly against the Law of Truth and Credibility, in representing things contrary and incompatible; or against that Law of Unity and Simplicity of Design, which constitutes the very Being of his Work. This particularly shews it-self in a Picture, when one is necessarily left in doubt, and unable to determine readily, *Which* of the distinct successive parts of the History or Action is that *very-one* represented in the Design. For even here the case

case is the same as in the other Circumstan- Ch. 1.  
ces of Poetry and Painting : " That what ~~  
" is principal or chief, shou'd immediate-  
" ly shew it-self, without leaving the Mind  
" in any uncertainty."

(14.) ACCORDING to this Rule of the *Unity of Time*, if one shou'd ask an Artist, who had painted this History of *The Judgment of HERCULES*, " \* Which of these four Periods or Dates of Time above propos'd he intended in his Picture to represent ; " and it shou'd happen that he cou'd not readily answer, 'Twas this, or that : It wou'd appear plainly he had never form'd a *real Notion* of his Workmanship, or of the History he intended to represent. So that when he had executed even to a Miracle all those other Beautys requisite in *a Piece*, and had fail'd in this single one, he wou'd from hence

\* If the same Question concerning the *instantaneous Action*, or present Moment of Time, were apply'd to many famous historical Paintings much admir'd in the World, they wou'd be found very defective : as we may learn by the Instance of that single Subject of ACTEON, one of the commonest in Painting. Hardly is there any where seen a Design of this poetical History, without a ridiculous Anticipation of the *Metamorphosis*. The Horns of ACTEON, which are the Effect of a Charm, shou'd naturally wait the execution of that Act in which the Charm consists. Till the Goddess therefore has thrown her Cast, the Hero's Person suffers not any Change. Even while the Water flies, his Forehead is still found. But in the usual Design we see it otherwise. The Horns are already sprouted, if not full grown : and the Goddess is seen watering the Sprouts.

alone

Ch. 2. alone be prov'd to be in truth no *History-Painter*, or Artist in the kind, who understood not so much as how to form the real Design of a *historical Piece*.

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## C H A P. II.

## Of the First or Principal Figure.

(1.) **T**O apply therefore what has been said above to our immediate Design or *Tablature* in hand; we may observe, in the first place, with regard to HERCULES, (the *first* or *principal Figure* of our Piece) that being plac'd in the middle, between the two Goddesses, he shou'd by a skilful Master be so drawn, as even setting aside the Air and Features of the Face, it shou'd appear by the very Turn, or Position of the Body alone, that this young Hero had not wholly quitted the balancing or pondering part. For in the manner of his turn towards the worthier of these Goddesses, he shou'd by no means appear so averse or separate from the other, as not to suffer it to be conceiv'd of him, that he had ever any inclination for her, or had ever hearken'd to her Voice. On the contrary, there ought to be some hopes yet remaining for this latter Goddess PLEASURE, and some regret apparent in HER-

C U L E S.

CULES. Otherwise we shou'd pass imme-  
diately from the *third* to the *fourth* Period;   
or at least confound one with the other.

(2.) HERCULES, in this Agony de-  
scrib'd, may appear either sitting, or stand-  
ing: tho' it be more according to probabi-  
lity for him to appear standing; in regard  
to the presence of the two Goddesses, and  
by reason the case is far from being the  
same *here* as in *The Judgment of PARIS*;  
where the interested Goddesses plead their  
Cause before their Judg. Here the Interest  
of HERCULES himself is at stake. 'Tis  
*his own* Cause which is trying. He is in  
this respect not so much *the Judg*, as he  
is in reality *the Party judg'd*.

(3.) THE superior and commanding  
Passion of HERCULES may be express'd  
either by *a strong Admiration*, or by an  
Admiration which holds chiefly of *Love*.

— *Ingenti percussus amore.*

(4.) IF the latter be us'd, then the re-  
luctant Passion, which is not yet wholly  
overcome, may shew it-self in Pity and  
Tenderness, mov'd in our Hero by the  
thought of those Pleasures and Companions  
of his Youth, which he is going for ever  
to abandon: And in this sense HERCULES  
may look either on the one or the  
other

Ch. 2. other of the Goddesses, with this difference; That if he looks on *Pleasure*, it shou'd be faintly, and as turning his Eyes back with Pity; having still his Action and Gesture turn'd the other way towards *Virtue*. If, on the contrary, he looks on *Virtue*; it ought to be earnestly, and with extreme attention, having some part of the Action of his Body, inclining still towards *Pleasure*, and discovering by certain Features of Concern and Pity, intermix'd with the commanding or conquering Passion, that the Decision he is about to make in favour of *Virtue*, cost him not a little.

(5.) IF it be thought fit rather to make use of Admiration, merely to express the commanding Passion of HERCULES: then the *reluctant-one* may discover it-self in a kind of Horror, at the thought of the Toil and Labour, to be sustain'd in the rough rocky way apparent on the side of VIRTUE.

(6.) AGAIN, HERCULES may be represented as looking neither towards VIRTUE nor PLEASURE, but as turning his Eyes either towards the mountainous rocky Way pointed out to him by VIRTUE, or towards the flowry Way of the Vale and Meadows, recommended to him by PLEASURE. And to these different Attitudes may be apply'd the same Rules

Rules for the Expression of the *Turn* or Ch. 2.  
*Balance of Judgment* in our pensive Hero. ~~~

(7.) WHATEVER may be the manner chosen for the designing of this Figure of HERCULES, according to that part of the History in which we have taken him; 'tis certain he shou'd be so drawn, as neither by the opening of his mouth, or by any other sign, to leave it in the least dubious whether he is speaking or silent. For 'tis absolutely requisite that *Silence* shou'd be distinctly characteriz'd in HERCULES, not only as the natural effect of his strict Attention, and the little leisure he has from what passes at this time within his breast; but in order withal to give that appearance of Majesty and Superiority becoming the Person and Character of pleading VIRTUE; who by her Eloquence and other Charms has ere this made her-self mistress of the Heart of our enamour'd Hero:

\* — *Pendetque iterum narrantis ob ore.*

This Image of the *Sublime* in the Discourse and Manner of VIRTUE, wou'd be utterly lost, if in the instant that she employ'd the greatest Force of Action, she shou'd appear to be interrupted by the ill-tim'd Speech, Reply, or Utterance of her Auditor. Such a Design or Representation as this, wou'd prove contrary to Order,

\* Virg. Æn. Lib. iv. ver. 79.

Ch. 3. contrary to the History, and to the *Decorum*, or Decency of Manners. Nor can one well avoid taking notice here, of that general Absurdity committed by many of the esteem'd great Masters in Painting; who in one and the same Company, or Assembly of Persons jointly employ'd, and united according to the History, in one single or common Action, represent to us not only *two* or *three*, but *several*, and sometimes *all* speaking at once. Which must naturally have the same effect on the Eye, as such a Conversation wou'd have upon the Ear, were we in reality to hear it.

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### C H A P. III.

#### *Of the Second Figure.*

(1.) **A**FTER what has been said on the Subject of HERCULES, it appears plainly what the *Attitude* must be of our second Figure, VIRTUE; who, as we have taken her in this particular Period of our History, must of necessity be *speaking* with all the Force of Action, such as wou'd appear in an excellent Orator, when at the height, and in the most affecting part of his Discourse.

(2.) **S**HE ought therefore to be drawn *standing*; since 'tis contrary to all probable Ap-

Appearance, and even to Nature it-self, Ch. 3. that in the very Heat and highest Transport of Speech, the Speaker shou'd be seen fitting, or in any Posture which might express Repose.

(3.) SHE may be *habited* either as an AMAZON, with the Helmet, Lance, and in the Robe or Vest of PALLAS; or as any other of the *Virtues*, *Goddeſſes*, or *Heroines*, with the plain original Crown, without Rays, according to genuine Antiquity. Our History makes no mention of a Helmet, or any other Armour of VIRTUE. It gives us only to understand, that she was dress'd neither negligently, nor with much study or ornament. If we follow this latter method, we need give her only in her hand the Imperial or \* Magisterial Sword; which is her true characteristick Mark, and wou'd sufficiently distinguish her, without the Helmet, Lance, or other military Habit. And in this manner, the opposition between her-self and her Rival wou'd be still more beautiful and regular.—“ But this Beauty, says one, wou'd be “discoverable only by the Learned.”—Perhaps so. But then again, there wou'd be no loss for others: since no-one wou'd find this Piece the less intelligible on the account of this Regulation. On the contrary,

\* Parazonium.

Ch. 3. one who chanc'd to know little of Anti-  
 quity in general, or of this History in par-  
 ticular, wou'd be still further to seek, if  
 upon seeing an armed Woman in the Piece,  
 he shou'd represent to himself either a  
 PALLAS, a BELLONA, or any other  
 warlike Form, or Deity of the female kind.

(4.) As for the *Shape, Countenance, or Person of VIRTUE*; that which is usually given to PALLAS may fitly serve as a Model for this Dame; as on the other side, that which is given to VENUS, may serve in the same manner for her Rival. The Historian whom we follow, represents VIRTUE to us as a Lady of a goodly Form, tall and majestick. And by what he relates of her, he gives us sufficiently to understand, that tho' she was neither lean, nor of a tann'd Complexion, she must have discover'd however, by the Substance and Colour of her Flesh, that she was sufficiently accustom'd to exercise. PLEASURE, on the other hand, by an exact Opposition, is represented in better case, and of a Softness of Complexion; which speaks her Manners, and gives her a middle Character between the Person of a VENUS, and that of a BACCHINAL Nymph.

(5.) As for the *Position, or Attitude of VIRTUE*; tho' in a historical Piece, such as ours is design'd, 'twou'd on no account be

be proper to have immediate recourse to Ch. 3. the way of *Emblem*; one might, on this ~~way~~<sup>occas</sup> occasion, endeavour nevertheless by some artifice to give our Figure, as much as possible, the resemblance of the same *Goddes*, as she is seen on Medals, and other antient *emblematick* Pieces of like nature. In this view, she shou'd be so design'd, as to stand firm with her full poise upon one foot, having the other a little advanc'd, and rais'd on a broken piece of ground or rock, instead of the Helmet or little Globe on which we see her usually setting her foot, as triumphant, in those Pieces of the *emblematick* kind. A particular advantage of this Attitude, so judiciously assign'd to **VIRTUE** by antient Masters, is, that it expresses as well her aspiring Effort, or Ascent towards the Stars and Heaven, as her Victory and Superiority over Fortune and the World. For so the Poets have, of old, describ'd her.

\* ——*Negatâ tentat iter viâ.*

† *Virtutisque viam deserit arduæ.*

And in our Piece particularly, where the *arduous* and *rocky way* of **VIRTUE** requires to be emphatically represented; the ascending Posture of this Figure, with one Foot advanc'd, in a sort of climbing Action, over

\* Horat. Lib. iii. Od. ii. ver. 22.

† Idem ibid. Od. xxiv. ver. 44.

Ch. 3. the rough and thorny Ground, must of necessity, if well executed, create a due effect, and add to the Sublime of this \* ancient Poetick Work.

(6.) As for the *Hands* or *Arms*, which in real Oratory, and during the strength of Elocution, must of necessity be active; 'tis plain in respect of our Goddes, that the Arm in particular which she has free to herself, and is neither incumber'd with Lance or Sword, shou'd be employ'd another way, and come in, to second the Discourse, and accompany it, with a just Emphasis and Action. Accordingly, VIRTUE wou'd then be seen with this Hand, turn'd either *upwards* to the rocky Way mark'd out by her with approbation; or to the Sky, or Stars, in the same sublime sense; or *downwards* to the flowery Way and Vale, as in a detesting manner, and with abhorrence of what passes there; or last of all (in a disdainful sense, and with the same appearance of Detestation) against PLEASURE herself. Each Manner wou'd have its peculiar

+ *As antient as the Poet HESIOD: which appears by the following Verses, cited by our Historian, as the Foundation, or first Draught of this HERCULEAN Tablature.*

Τὴν μὲν γῆν κακόπιλα καὶ ιλασμόν ἔστιν ἐλέδως  
 Πριηδίως. λείπει δὲ ὁδός. μηδὲν δὲ εἴγυνθι ναῖται.  
 Τὸν δὲ αρετῆς ιδεῶντα θεοὶ περιπάτεσθεν ἔπικραν  
 Αθανάσιοι. μακρὸς δὲ καὶ ὅρθι Θεοῦ μυΘός ἐπ' αὐτὸν,  
 Καὶ τεκνούς τὸν πρώτον ἐπὶν δὲ εἰς ἀκρον ἵκηται  
 Πριηδίην δὲ ἡπειρὰ φέλει, χαλεπήν περί εἶσσα.

Oper. & Dier. Lib. i. ver. 285.  
 advan-

advantage. And the best Profit shou'd be made of this Arm and Hand at liberty, to express either the *Disapprobation* or the *Applause* propos'd. It might prove, however, a considerable advantage to our Figure of VIRTUE, if holding the Lance, or Imperial Sword, slightly, with one of her Hands stretch'd downwards, she cou'd, by that very Hand and Action, be made to express the latter meaning; opening for that purpose some of the lower Fingers of this Hand, in a refusing or repelling manner; whilst with the other Arm and Hand at liberty, she shou'd express as well the former meaning, and point out to HERCULES the way which leads to Honour, and the just Glory of heroick Actions.

(7.) FROM all these Circumstances of History, and Action, accompanying this important Figure, the difficulty of the Design will sufficiently appear, to those who carry their Judgment beyond the mere *Form*, and are able to consider the Character of the Passion to which it is subjected. For where a real Character is mark'd, and the *inward Form* peculiarly describ'd, 'tis necessary the *outward* shou'd give place. Whoever shou'd expect to see our Figure of VIRTUE, in the exact Mein of a *fine Talker*, curious in her Choice of Action, and forming it according to the usual Decorum, and regular Movement of one of the

Ch. 3. fair Ladys of our Age, wou'd certainly be  
far wide of the Thought and Genius of this  
Piece. Such study'd Action, and artificial  
Gesture, may be allow'd to the Actors and  
Actrices of the Stage. But the good Painter  
must come a little nearer to TRUTH, and  
take care that his Action be not *theatrical*,  
or at second hand; but *original*, and drawn  
from NATURE her-self. Now altho in the  
ordinary Tenour of Discourse, the Action  
of the Party might be allow'd to appear so  
far govern'd and compos'd by Art, as to re-  
tain that regular *Contraste*, and nice Balance  
of Movement, which Painters are apt to ad-  
mire as the chief Grace of Figures; yet in  
this particular case, where the natural Ea-  
gerness of Debate, supported by a thorow  
Antipathy and Animosity, is join'd to a  
sort of *enthusiaſtick Agitation* incident to  
our prophetick Dame, there can be little of  
that fashionable Mein, or genteel Air ad-  
mitted. The Painter who, in such a Piece  
as we describe, is bound to preserve the  
heroick Style, will doubtless beware of re-  
presenting his Heroine as a mere *Scold*.  
Yet this is certain, That it were better for  
him to expose himself to the Meanness of  
such a Fancy, and paint his Lady in a high  
Rant, according to the common Weakness  
of the Sex, than to engage in the Embel-  
lishment of the mere *Form*; and, forgetting  
the Character of Severity and Reprimand  
belonging to the illuftrious Rival, prefent  
her

her to us a fair specious Personage, free of Ch. 4. Emotion, and without the least Bent or  Movement, which shou'd express the real Pathetick of the kind.

## C H A P. IV.

## Of the Third Figure.

(1.) C O N CERNING PLEASURE  
G there needs little to be said, after what has been already remark'd in relation to the two preceding Figures. The Truth of *Appearance*, that of *History*, and even the *Decorum* it-self, (according to what has been explain'd above) require evidently that in this Period or Instant describ'd, P L E A S U R E shou'd be found silent. She can have no other Language allow'd her than that merely of *the Eyes*. And 'twou'd be a happy Management for her in the Design, if in turning her Eyes to meet those of H E R C U L E S, she shou'd find his Head and Face already turn'd so much on the contrary side, as to shew it impossible for her as yet to discover the growing Passion of this Hero in favour of her Rival. By this means she might still with good right retain her fond Airs of Dalliance and Courtship; as having yet discover'd no reason she has to be dissatisfy'd.

(2.) S H E

(2.) SHE may be drawn either *standing*, *leaning*, *sitting*, or *lying*; without a Crown, or crown'd either with Roses, or with Myrtle; according to the Painter's Fancy. And since in this *third* Figure the Painter has so great a liberty left him, he may make good advantage of it for the other *two*, to which *this latter* may be subjected, as the last in order, and of least consequence.

(3.) THAT which makes the greatest difficulty in the Disposition or Ordonnance of this Figure PLEASURE, is, that notwithstanding the supine Air and Character of Ease and Indolence, which shou'd be given her, she must retain still so much Life and Action, as is sufficient to express her *persuasive Effort*, and Manner of *Indication* towards her proper Paths; those of the flowery kind, and Vale below, whither she wou'd willingly guide our Hero's steps. Now shou'd this *Effort* be over-strongly express'd; not only the supine Character and Air of Indolence wou'd be lost in this Figure of PLEASURE; but, what is worse, the Figure wou'd seem to speak, or at least appear so, as to create a double Meaning, or *equivocal Sense* in Painting: which wou'd destroy what we have establish'd as fundamental, concerning the absolute Reign of *Silence* thro'out the rest of the Piece, in favour of VIRTUE, the sole

sole speaking Party at this Instant, or third Ch. 4.  
Period of our History.

(4.) ACCORDING to a Computation, which in this way of Reasoning might be made, of the whole *Motion* or *Action* to be given to our Figure of PLEASURE; she shou'd scarce have *one fifth* reserv'd for that which we may properly call *active* in her, and have already term'd her *persuasive* or *indicative Effort*. All besides shou'd be employ'd to express, if one may say so, her *Inaction*, her *Supineness*, *Effeminacy*, and *indulgent Ease*. The Head and Body might intirely favour this latter Passion. One Hand might be absolutely resign'd to it; serving only to support, with much ado, the lolling lazy Body. And if the other Hand be requir'd to express some kind of Gesture or Action toward the Road of Pleasures recommended by this Dame; the Gesture ought however to be slight and negligent, in the manner of one who has given over speaking, and appears weary and spent.

(5.) FOR the *Shape*, the *Person*, the *Complexion*, and what else may be further remark'd as to the *Air* and *Manner* of PLEASURE; all this is naturally comprehended in the Opposition, as above stated, between *Her-self* and VIRTUE.

C H A P.

## C H A P. V.

*Of the Ornaments of the Piece; and  
chiefly of the Drapery, and Per-  
spective.*

(1.) TIS sufficiently known, how great a liberty Painters are us'd to take, in the colouring of their Habits, and of other Draperys belonging to their historical Pieces. If they are to paint a *Roman* People, they represent 'em in different Dres-ses; tho' it be certain the common People among 'em were habited very near alike, and much after the same colour. In like manner, the *Egyptians*, *Jews*, and other ancient Nations, as we may well suppose, bore in this particular their respective Likeness or Resemblance one to another; as at present the *Spaniards*, *Italians*, and several other People of *Europe*. But such a Resemblance as this wou'd, in the way of Painting, produce a very untoward effect; as may easily be conceiv'd. For this reason the Painter makes no scruple to introduce *Philosophers*, and even *Apostles*, in various Colours, after a very extraordinary manner. 'Tis here that the *historical Truth* must of necessity indeed give way to that which we call *poetical*, as being govern'd not so much by *Reality*, as by *Probability*, or

or *plausible Appearance*, So that a Painter,<sup>Ch. 5.</sup> who uses his Privilege or Prerogative in        this respect, ought however to do it cautiously, and with discretion. And when occasion requires that he shou'd present us his *Philosophers* or *Apostles* thus variously colour'd, he must take care at least so to mortify his Colours, that these plain poor Men may not appear, in his Piece, adorn'd like so many Lords or Princes of the modern Garb.

(2.) IF, on the other hand, the Painter shou'd happen to take for his Subject some solemn Entry or Triumph, where, according to the Truth of *Fact*, all manner of Magnificence had without doubt been actually display'd, and all sorts of bright and dazzling Colours heap'd together and advanc'd, in emulation, one against another; he ought on this occasion, in breach of the *historical Truth*, or Truth of *Fact*, to do his utmost to diminish and reduce the excessive Gaiety and Splendor of those Objects, which wou'd otherwise raise such a Confusion, Oppugnancy, and Riot of Colours, as wou'd to any judicious Eye appear absolutely intolerable.

(3.) IT becomes therefore an able Painter in this, as well as in the other parts of his Workmanship, to have regard principally, and above all, to the Agreement or Cor-

Ch. 5. Correspondency of things. And to that end 'tis necessary he shou'd form in his Mind a certain Note or Character of *Unity*, which being happily taken, wou'd, out of the many Colours of his Piece, produce (if one may say so) *a particular distinct Species* of an original kind: like those Compositions in Musick, where among the different Airs, (such as *Sonatas*, *Entrys*, or *Sarabands*) there are different and distinct Species; of which we may say in particular, as to each, "That it has its own "proper Character or Genius, peculiar to "it-self."

(4.) THUS the *Harmony* of Painting requires, "That in whatever *Key* the Painter begins his Piece, he shou'd be sure to finish it in the same."

(5.) THIS Regulation turns on the *principal Figure*, or on the two or three which are *eminent*, in a Tablature compos'd of many. For if the Painter happens to give a certain Height or Richness of colouring to his principal Figure; the rest must in proportion necessarily partake this Genius. But if, on the contrary, the Painter shou'd have chanc'd to give a softer Air, with more Gentleness and Simplicity of colouring, to his principal Figure; the rest must bear a Character proportionable, and appear in an extraordinary Simplicity; that

that one and the same Spirit may, without contest, reign thro' the whole of his ~~one~~ Design.

(6.) OUR Historical Draught of HERCULES will afford us a very clear example in the case. For considering that the Hero is to appear on this occasion retir'd and gloomy ; being withal in a manner naked, and without any other Covering than a Lion's Skin, which is it-self of a yellow and dusky colour ; it wou'd be really impracticable for a Painter to represent this principal Figure in any extraordinary brightness or lustre. From whence it follows, that in the other inferior Figures or subordinate parts of the Work, the Painter must necessarily make use of such still quiet Colours, as may give to the whole Piece a Character of Solemnity and Simplicity, agreeable with it-self. Now shou'd our Painter honestly go about to follow his Historian, according to the literal Sense of the History, which represents VIRTUE to us in a resplendent Robe of the purest and most glossy White ; 'tis evident he must after this manner destroy his Piece. The *good Painter* in this, as in all other occasions of like nature, must do as the *good Poet* ; who undertaking to treat some common and known Subject, refuses however to follow strictly, like a mere Copyist or Translator, any preceding Poet or Historian ;

Ch. 5. rian; but so orders it, that his Work in  
 it-self becomes really new and original.

\* *Publica materies privati juris erit, si  
 Nec circa vilem patulumque moraberis  
 orbem;  
 Nec verbum verbo curabis reddere fidus  
 Interpres.*

(7.) As for what relates to the *Perspective* or *Scene* of our historical Piece, it ought so to present it-self, as to make us instantly conceive that 'tis in the Country, and in a place of Retirement, near some Wood or Forest, that this whole Action passes. For 'twou'd be impertinent to bring *Architecture* or *Buildings* of whatever kind in view, as tokens of Company, Diversion, or Affairs, in a Place purposely chosen to denote Solitude, Thoughtfulness, and pre-meditated Retreat. Besides, that according to the Poets (our Guides and Masters in this Art) neither the Goddesses, nor other divine Forms of whatever kind, car'd ever to present themselves to human Sight, elsewhere than in these deep Recesses. And 'tis worth observing here, how particularly our philosophical Historian affects to speak, by way of prevention, of the solitary place where HERCULES was retir'd, and of his Thoughtfulness preceding this Apparition: which from these Circumstances may be constru'd

\* Horat. de Art. Poet. ver. 151.

hence-

hence-forward as a mere *Dream*; but as Ch. 5.  
such, a truly rational, and *divine* one.



(8.) As to the *Fortress*, *Temple*, or *Palace* of *VIRTUE*, situated on a Mountain, after the emblematical way; as we see represented in some Pieces form'd upon this Subject; there is nothing of this kind express'd by our Historian. And shou'd this, or any thing of a like nature, present it-self in our Design, it wou'd fill the Mind with foreign Fancys, and mysterious Views, no way agreeable to the Taste and Genius of this Piece. Nor is there any thing, at the same time, on *PLEASURE*'s side, to answer, by way of opposition, to this *Palace* of *VIRTUE*; which, if express'd, wou'd on this account destroy the just Simplicity and Correspondency of our Wotk.

(9.) ANOTHER Reason against the *Perspective*-part, the *Architecture*, or other study'd Ornaments of the *Landscape*-kind, in this particular Piece of ours, is, That in reality there being no occasion for these Appearances, they wou'd prove a mere Incumbrance to the Eye, and wou'd of necessity disturb the Sight, by diverting it from that which is principal, the *History* and *Fa&t*. Whatsoever appears in a historical Design, which is not essential to the Action, serves only to confound the Representation, and perplex the Mind: more

Ch. 5. particularly, if these *Episodick* parts are so lively wrought, as to vie with the principal Subject, and contend for Precedency with the *Figures* and *human Life*. A just Design, or Tablature, shou'd, at first view, discover, What *Nature* it is design'd to imitate; what *Life*, whether of the higher or lower kind, it aims chiefly to represent. The Piece must by no means be equivocal or dubious; but must with ease distinguish it-self, either as *historical* and *moral*, or as *perspective* and merely *natural*. If it be the latter of these Beautys, which we desire to see delineated according to its perfection, then the former must give place. The *higher Life* must be allay'd, and in a manner discountenanc'd and obscur'd; whilst the *lower* displays it-self, and is exhibited as principal. Even that, which according to a Term of Art we commonly call *Still-Life*, and is in reality of the last and lowest degree of Painting, must have its Superiority and just Preference in a Tablature of its own Species. 'Tis the same in *Animal-Pieces*; where Beasts, or Fowl are represented. In *Landscape*, Inanimates are principal: 'Tis the Earth, the Water, the Stones and Rocks which live. All other Life becomes subordinate. Humanity, Sense, Manners, must in this place yield, and become inferior. 'Twou'd be a fault even to aim at the Expression of any real Beauty in this kind, or go about to animate

or

or heighten in any considerable degree the Ch. 5. accompanying Figures of Men, or Deitys,  which are accidentally introduce'd, as Appendices, or Ornaments, in such a Piece. But if, on the contrary, the *human Species* be that which first presents it-self in a Picture; if it be the *intelligent Life*, which is set to view; 'tis the *other Species*, the *other Life*, which must then surrender and become subservient. The *merely natural* must pay homage to the *historical* or *moral*. Every Beauty, every Grace must be sacrific'd to the *real BEAUTY of this first and highest Order*. For nothing can be more deform'd than a Confusion of many Beautys: And the Confusion becomes inevitable, where the Subjection is not compleat.

(10.) By the word MORAL are understand, in this place, all Sorts of judicious Representations of the human Passions; as we see even in *Battel-Pieces*; excepting those of distant Figures, and the diminutive kind; which may rather be consider'd as a fort of *Landskip*. In all other martial Pieces, we see express'd in lively Action, the several degrees of Valor, Magnanimity, Cowardice, Terror, Anger, according to the several Characters of Nations, and particular Men. 'Tis here that we may see *Heroes* and *Chiefs* (such as the ALEXANDERS or CONSTANTINES) appear, even in the hottest of the Action,

Ch. 5. with a Tranquillity and Sedateness of Mind  
peculiar to themselves: which is, indeed,  
in a direct and proper sense, profoundly  
*moral.*

(11.) BUT as the *Moral* part is differently treated in a *Poem*, from what it is in *History*, or in a *philosophical Work*; so must it, of right, in *Painting* be far differently treated, from what it naturally is, either in the *History*, or *Poem*. For want of a right understanding of this Maxim, it often happens that, by endeavouring to render a Piece highly *moral* and *learned*, it becomes thorowly ridiculous and impertinent.

(12.) FOR the ordinary Works of SCULPTURE, such as the *Low-Relieves*, and Ornaments of *Columns* and *Edifices*, great allowance is made. The very Rules of Perspective are here wholly revers'd, as necessity requires; and are accommodated to the Circumstance and Genius of the Place or Building, according to a certain OEconomy or Order of a particular and distinct kind; as will easily be observ'd by those who have thorowly study'd the TRAJAN and ANTONINUS-Pillars, and other *Relieve-Works* of the Antients. In the same manner, as to Pieces of engrav'd Work, Medals, or whatever shews it-self in one Substance, (as Brads or Stone) or only by Shade and Light, (as in ordinary Drawings,

Drawings, or Stamps) much also is al-Ch. 5.  
low'd, and many things admitted, of the *fantastick, miraculous, or hyperbolical* kind.  
'Tis here, that we have free scope, withal,  
for whatever is *learned, emblematical, or enigmatick*. But for the compleatly imitative  
and illusive Art of PAINTING, whose Character it is to employ in her Works the united Force of different Colours; and who, surpassing by so many Degrees, and in so many Privileges, all other human Fiction, or imitative Art, aspires in a directer manner towards Deceit, and a Command over our very Sense; she must of necessity abandon whatever is *over-learned, humorous, or witty*; to maintain her-self in what is *natural, credible, and winning of our Assent*: that she may thus acquit her-self of what is her chief Province, *the specious Appearance of the Object she represents*. Otherwise we shall naturally bring against her the just Criticism of HORACE, on the scenical Representation so nearly ally'd to her:

*Quodcunque ostendis mibi sic, incredulus odi.*

(13.) WE are therefore to consider this as a sure Maxim or Observation in Painting, " That a *historical and moral* Piece " must of necessity lose much of its natural Simplicity and Grace, if any thing of " the *emblematical or enigmatick* kind be

Ch. 5. " visibly and directly intermix'd." As if  
for instance, the Circle of the \* *Zodiack*,  
with its twelve Signs, were introduc'd.  
Now this being an Appearance which car-  
rys not any manner of similitude or col-  
lourable resemblance to any thing extant in  
real Nature; it cannot possibly pretend to  
win the Sense, or gain Belief, by the help  
of any *poetical Enthusiasm, religious History,*  
*or Faith.* For by means of these, indeed,  
we are easily induc'd to contemplate as  
Realitys those divine Personages and mira-  
culous Forms, which the leading Painters,  
antient and modern, have speciously de-  
sign'd; according to the particular Doctrine  
or Theology of their several religious and  
national Beliefs. But for our Tablature in  
particular, it carrys nothing with it of the  
mere *emblematical* or *enigmatick* kind:  
since for what relates to the double Way of  
the Vale and Mountain, this may naturally  
and with colourable appearance be repre-  
sented at the Mountain's foot. But if on  
the Summit or highest Point of it, we shou'd place the Fortress, or Palace of *Virtue*, rising above the Clouds, this wou'd im-  
mediately give the enigmatical mysterious

\* This is what RAPHAEL himself has done, in his famous Design of *The Judgment of PARIS*. But this Piece having never been painted, but design'd only for MARCO ANTONIO's engraving, it comes not within our Censure; as appears by what is laid in the Paragraph just preceding.

Air to our *Picture*, and of necessity de-Ch. 5.  
stroy its persuasive Simplicity, and natural  Appearance.

(14.) IN short, we are to carry this Remembrance still along with us, " That the fewer the Objects are, besides those which are absolutely necessary in a Piece, the easier it is for the Eye, by one simple Act and in one View, to comprehend the *Sum or Whole.*" The multiplication of Subjects, tho subaltern, renders the Subordination more difficult to execute in the Ordonnance or Composition of a Work. And if the *Subordination* be not perfect, the *Order* (which makes the Beauty) remains imperfect. Now the *Subordination* can never be perfect, except " \* When the Ordonnance is such, that the Eye not only runs over with ease the several Parts of the Design, (reducing still its View each moment to the principal Subject on which all turns) but when the same Eye, without the least detainment in any of the particular Parts, and resting, as it were, immovable in the middle, or center of the Tablature, may see at once, in an agreeable and perfect Correspondency, all which is there exhibited to the Sight."

\* This is what the Grecian Masters so happily express'd, by the single word *Ευσύνοή*. See VOL. I. pag. 143, &c.

## C H A P. VI.

*Of the Casual or Independent Ornaments.*

(1.) THERE remains for us now to consider only of the separate Ornaments, independent both of Figures and Perspective ; such as the \* *Machine-Work*, or *Divinitys* in the Sky, the Winds, Cupids, Birds, Animals, Dogs, or other loose Pieces, which are introduc'd without any absolute necessity, and in a way of Humour. But as these belong chiefly to the *ordinary Life*, and to the *comick*, or *mix'd* kind ; our Tablature, which on the contrary is wholly *epick*, *heroick*, and in the *tragick* Style, wou'd not so easily admit of any thing in this light way.

(2.) WE may besides consider, that whereas the Mind is naturally led to fancy Mystery in a Work of such a Genius or Style of Painting as ours, and to confound with each other the two distinct kinds of the *emblematick*, and merely *historical*, or *poetick* ; we shou'd take care not to afford

\* This is understood of the Machine-Work, when it is merely ornamental, and not essential in the Piece ; by making part of the History, or Fable it-self.

it this occasion of Error and Deviation, by Ch. 6. introducing into a Piece of so uniform a  Design, such Appendices, or supplementary Parts, as, under pretext of giving light to the History, or characterizing the Figures, shou'd serve only to distract or dissipate the Sight, and confound the Judgment of the more intelligent Spectators.

(3.) "WILL it then, says one, be possible to make out the Story of these two *Dames* in company with HERCULES, without otherwise distinguishing them than as above describ'd?" — We answer, it is possible; and not that only, but certain and infallible, in the case of one who has the least Genius, or has ever heard in general concerning HERCULES, without so much as having ever heard this History in particular. But if, notwithstanding this, we wou'd needs add some exterior marks, more declaratory and determinative of these two Personages, VIRTUE and PLEASURE; it may be perform'd, however, without any necessary recourse to what is absolutely of the *Emblem*-kind. The Manner of this may be explain'd as follows.

(4.) THE Energy or natural Force of *Virtue*, according to the moral Philosophy of highest note among the Antients, was express'd in the double effect of  
*For-*

Ch. 6. \* *Forbearance* and *Indurance*, or what we  
 may otherwise call *Refrainment* and *Support*. For the former, the *Bit* or *Bridle*,  
 plac'd somewhere on the side of *Virtue*, may serve as Emblem sufficient; and for  
 the second, the *Helmet* may serve in the same manner; especially since they are  
 each of them Appurtenances essential to *Heroes*, (who, in the quality of Warriors,  
 were also Subduers or † Managers of Horses) and that at the same time these are  
 really portable Instruments, such as the martial Dame, who represents *Virtue*, may  
 be well suppos'd to have brought along with her.

(5.) ON the side of PLEASURE, certain *Vases*, and other Pieces of imboss'd Plate, wrought in the figures of *Satyrs*, *Fauns*, and *Bacchanals*, may serve to express the Debauches of the Table-kind. And certain Draperys thrown carelesly on the ground, and hung upon a neighbouring Tree, forming a kind of Bower and Couch for this luxurious Dame, may serve sufficiently to suggest the Thought of other Indulgences, and to support the Image of the effeminate, indolent, and amorous Passions.

\* *Kagilela, Ἐγκλεία*: They were describ'd as Sisters in the emblematick Moral Philosophy of the Antients. Whence that known Precept, Ἀρέχει τὸν Απέχει, SUSTINE & ABSTINE.

† CASTOR, POLLUX; all the Heroes of HOMER; ALEXANDER the Great, &c.

Besides that, for this latter kind, we may rest satisfy'd, 'tis what the Painter will hardly fail of representing to the full. The fear is, lest he shou'd overdo this part, and express the Affection too much to the life. The Appearance will, no doubt, be strongly wrought in all the Features and Proportions of this *third Figure*; which is of a relish far more popular, and vulgarly engaging, than that *other* oppos'd to it, in our historical Design.

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## C O N C L U S I O N.

(1.) **W**E may conclude this Argument with a general Reflection, which seems to arise naturally from what has been said on this Subject in particular: "That in a real *History-Painter*, the same Knowledge, the same Study, and Views, are required, as in a real *Poet*." Never can the *Poet*, whilst he justly holds that name, become a *Relator*, or *Historian* at large. He is allow'd only to describe a single Action; not the Actions of a single Man, or People. The *Painter* is a Historian at the same rate, but still more narrowly confin'd, as in fact appears; since it wou'd certainly prove a more ridiculous Attempt to comprehend two or three distinct Actions or Parts of History in *one Picture*, than

than to comprehend ten times the number in one and *the same Poem.*

(2.) Tis well known, that to each Species of Poetry, there are natural Proportions and Limits assignd'. And it wou'd be a gross Absurdity indeed to imagine, that in a Poem there was nothing which we cou'd call *Measure* or *Number*, except merely in the Verse. An Elegy, and an Epigram, have each of 'em their Measure, and Proportion, as well as a Tragedy, or Epick Poem. In the same manner, as to Painting, Sculpture, or Statuary, there are particular Measures which form what we call *a Piece*: as for instance, in mere Portraiture, *a Head*, or *Bust*: the former of which must retain always the whole, or at least a certain part of the Neck; as the latter the Shoulders, and a certain part of the Breast. If any thing be added or retrench'd, the *Piece* is destroy'd. 'Tis then a mangled Trunk, or dismember'd Body, which presents it-self to our Imagination; and this too not thro' use merely, or on the account of custom, but of necessity, and by the nature of the Appearance: since there are such and such parts of the human Body, which are naturally match'd, and must appear in company: the Section, if unskilfully made, being in reality horrid, and representing rather an *Amputation* in Surgery, than a seemly *Division* or *Separation*

tion according to *Art.* And thus it is, that in general, thro' all the plastick Arts, or Works of Imitation, " Whatsoever is " drawn from Nature, with the intention " of raising in us the Imagination of the " natural Species or Object, according to " real *Beauty* and *Truth*, shou'd be com- " priz'd in certain compleat Portions or " Districts, which represent the Corre- " spondency or Union of each *part* of " Nature, with *intire NATURE her-self.*" And 'tis this natural Apprehension, or anticipating Sense of *Unity*, which makes us give even to the Works of our inferior Artizans, the name of *Pieces* by way of Excellence, and as denoting the *Justness* and *Truth* of Work.

(3.) IN order therefore to succeed rightly in the Formation of any thing truly beautiful in this higher Order of Design; 'twere to be wish'd that the Artist, who had Understanding enough to comprehend what *a real Piece* or *Tablature* imported, and who, in order to this, had acquir'd the Knowledg of *a Whole* and *Parts*, wou'd afterwards apply himself to the Study of *moral* and *poetick Truth*: that by this means the Thoughts, Sentiments, or *Manners*, which hold the first rank in his historical Work, might appear suitable to the higher and nobler Species of Humanity in which he practis'd, to the Genius of the Age  
I which

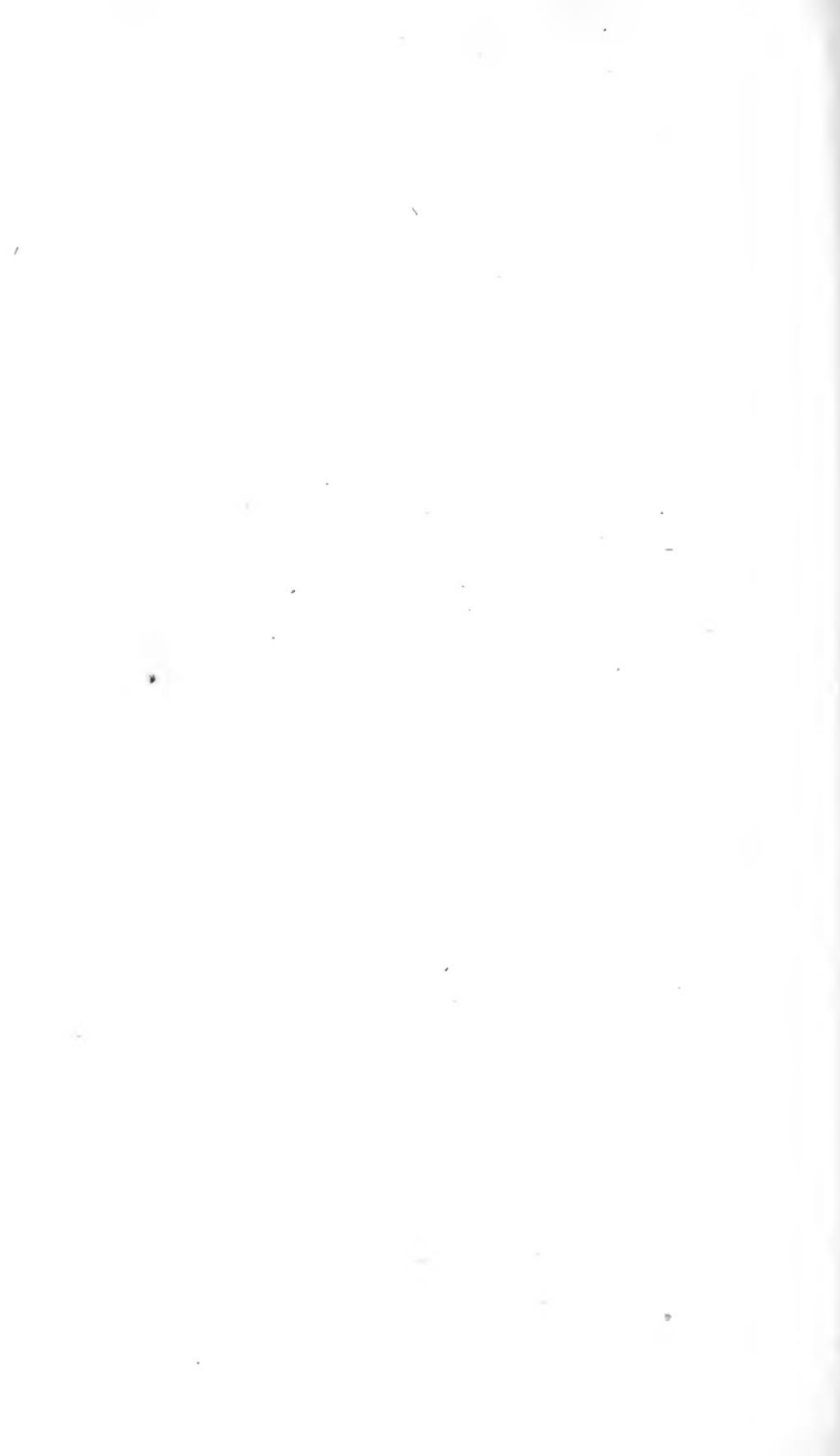
which he describ'd, and to the principal or main Action which he chose to represent. He wou'd then naturally learn to reject those false Ornaments of *affected Graces, exaggerated Passions, hyperbolical and prodigious Forms*; which, equally with the mere *capricious and grotesque*, destroy the just *Simplicity, and Unity*, essential in a P E C E. And for his *Colouring*; he wou'd then soon find how much it became him to be *reserv'd, severe, and chaste*, in this particular of his Art; where *Luxury and Libertinism* are, by the power of *Fashion* and the modern *Taste*, become so universally establish'd.

(4.) 'Tis evident however from Reason it-self, as well as from \* History and Experience, that nothing is more fatal, either to Painting, Architecture, or the other Arts, than this *false Relish*, which is govern'd rather by what immediately strikes the Sense, than by what consequentially and by reflection pleases the Mind, and satisfies the Thought and Reason. So that whilst we look on *Painting* with the same Eye, as we view commonly the rich Stuffs, and colour'd Silks worn by our Ladys, and admir'd in Dress, Equipage, or Furniture; we must of necessity be effeminate in our *Taste*, and utterly set wrong as to all

\* See VITRUVIUS, and PLINY.

Judgment and Knowldg in the kind. For of this *imitative Art* we may justly say ;  
“ That tho It borrows help indeed from  
“ Colours, and uses them, as means, to  
“ execute its Designs ; It has nothing,  
“ however, more wide of its real Aim, or  
“ more remote from its Intention, than to  
“ make a *shew* of Colours, or from their  
“ mixture, to raise a \* *separate* and *flat-*  
“ *tering* Pleasure to the S E N S E.”

\* *The Pleasure is plainly foreign and separate, as having no concern or share in the proper Delight or Entertainment which naturally arises from the Subject, and Workmanship itself. For the Subject, in respect of Pleasure, as well as Science, is absolutely compleated, when the Design is executed, and the propos'd Imitation once accomplish'd. And thus it always is the best, when the Colours are most subdu'd, and made subservient.*



A  
LETTER  
Concerning the  
ART, or SCIENCE  
OF  
DESIGN,  
Written from ITALY,  
On the occasion of the *Judgment*  
*of HERCULES,*  
TO  
My Lord \* \* \* \*

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— — — — — *Ante omnia Musæ.*  
Vir. Georg. Lib. ii.

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A

# LETTER CONCERNING DESIGN.

MY LORD,

**T**HIS Letter comes to your Lordship, accompany'd with a small Writing intitl'd A NOTION: for such alone can that Piece deservedly be call'd, which aspires no higher than to the forming of a *Project*, and that too in so vulgar a Science as *Painting*. But whatever the Subject be, if it can prove any way entertaining to you, it will sufficiently answer my Design. And if possibly it may have that good success, I shou'd have no ordinary opinion of my Project; since I know how hard it wou'd be to give your Lordship a real Entertainment by any thing which was not in some respect worthy and useful.

C c 2

ON

ON this account I must, by way of prevention, inform your Lordship, that after I had conceiv'd my *NOTION* such as you see it upon paper, I was not contented with this, but fell directly to work; and by the Hand of a Master-Painter brought it into *Practice*, and form'd a real *Design*. This was not enough. I resolv'd afterwards to see what effect it wou'd have, when taken out of mere Black-and-White, into Colours: And thus a *Sketch* was afterwards drawn. This pleas'd so well, that being encourag'd by the *Virtuosi*, who are so eminent in this part of the World, I resolv'd at last to engage my Painter in the great Work. Immediately a Cloth was bespoke of a suitable Dimension, and the Figures taken as big or bigger than the common Life; the Subject being of the Heroick kind, and requiring rather such Figures as shou'd appear above ordinary human Stature.

THUS my *NOTION*, as light as it may prove in the *Treatise*, is become very substantial in the *Workmanship*. The Piece is still in hand; and like to continue so for some time. Otherwise the first Draught or *Design* shou'd have accompany'd the *Treatise*; as the *Treatise* does this Letter. But the *Design* having grown thus into a *Sketch*, and the *Sketch* afterwards into a *Picture*;

*Picture*; I thought it fit your Lordship shou'd either see the several Pieces together, or be troubled only with that which was the best; as undoubtedly the great one must prove, if the Master I employ sinks not very much below himself, in this Performance.

FAR surely shou'd I be, my Lord, from conceiving any Vanity or Pride in Amusements of such an inferior kind as these; especially were they such as they may naturally at first sight appear. I pretend not here to apologize either for *them*, or for *myself*. Your Lordship however knows, I have naturally Ambition enough to make me desirous of employing myself in Busines of a higher Order: since it has been my fortune in publick Affairs to act often in concert with you, and in the same Views, on the Interest of EUROPE and Mankind. There was a Time, and that a very early one of my Life, when I was not wanting to my Country, in this respect. But after some years of hearty Labour and Pains in this kind of Workmanship, an unhappy Breach in my Health drove me not only from the Seat of Busines, but forc'd me to seek these foreign Climates; where, as mild as the Winters generally are, I have with much ado liv'd out this *latter-one*; and am now, as your Lordship finds, employ-

ing my-self in such easy Studys as are most suitable to my state of Health, and to the Genius of the Country where I am confin'd.

THIS in the mean time I can, with some assurance, say to your Lordship in a kind of spirit of Prophecy, from what I have observ'd of the rising Genius of our Nation, That if we live to see a Peace any way answerable to that generous Spirit with which this War was begun, and carry'd on, for our *own* Liberty and that of EUROPE; the Figure we are like to make abroad, and the Increase of Knowledge, Industry and Sense at home, will render *united BRITAIN* the principal Seat of Arts; and by her Politeness and Advantages in this kind, will shew evidently, how much she owes to those Counsels, which taught her to exert herself so resolutely in behalf of the *common Cause*, and that of her own *Liberty*, and happy *Constitution*, necessarily included.

I CAN my-self remember the Time, when, in respect of MUSICK, our reigning Taste was in many degrees inferior to the *French*. The long Reign of Luxury and Pleasure under King CHARLES the Second, and the foreign Helps and study'd Advantages given to *Musick* in a following Reign, cou'd not raise our Genius the least in

in this respect. But when the Spirit of the Nation was grown more *free*, tho engag'd at that time in the fiercest War, and with the most doubtful Success, we no sooner began to turn our-selves towards *Musick*, and enquire what ITALY in particular produc'd, than in an instant we outstrip'd our Neighbours the FRENCH, enter'd into a Genius far beyond theirs, and rais'd our-selves an *Ear*, and *Judgment*, not inferior to the best now in the World.

IN the same manner, as to PAINTING. Tho we have as yet nothing of our own native Growth in this kind worthy of being mention'd; yet since the Publick has of late begun to express a Relish for Ingravings, Drawings, Copyings, and for the original Paintings of the chief *Italian Schools*, (so contrary to the modern *French*) I doubt not that, in very few years, we shall make an equal progress in this other Science. And when our Humour turns us to cultivate these designing Arts, our Genius, I am persuaded, will naturally carry us over the lighter Amusements, and lead us to that higher, more serious, and noble Part of *Imitation*, which relates to *History*, *Human Nature*, and the chief *Degree or Order of BEAUTY*; I mean that of the *rational Life*, distinct from the merely *vegetable* and *sensible*, as

## A LETTER

in Animals, or Plants; according to those several Degrees or Orders of Painting, which your Lordship will find suggested in this extemporary *Notion* I have sent you.

As for ARCHITECTURE, 'tis no wonder if so many noble Designs of this kind have miscarry'd amongst us; since the Genius of our Nation has hitherto been so little turn'd this way, that thro' several Reigns we have patiently seen the noblest publick Buildings perish (if I may say so) under the Hand of one single Court-Architect; who, if he had been able to profit by Experience, wou'd long since, at our expence, have prov'd the greatest Master in the World. But I question whether our Patience is like to hold much longer. The Devastation so long committed in this kind, has made us begin to grow rude and clamorous at the hearing of a new Palace spoilt, or a new Design committed to some rash or impotent Pretender.

'Tis the good Fate of our Nation in this particular, that there remain yet two of the noblest Subjects for Architecture; our Prince's *Palace*, and our *House of Parliament*. For I can't but fancy that when *Whitehall* is thought of, the neighbouring *Lords* and *Commons* will at the same time  
be

be plac'd in better Chambers and Apartments, than at present ; were it only for Majesty's sake, and as a Magnificence becoming the Person of the Prince, who here appears in full Solemnity. Nor do I fear that when these new Subjects are attempted, we shou'd miscarry as grossly as we have done in others before. Our *State*, in this respect, may prove perhaps more fortunate than our *Church*, in having waited till a national Taste was form'd, before these Edifices were undertaken. But the Zeal of the Nation cou'd not, it seems, admit so long a Delay in their Ecclesiastical Structures, particularly their *Metropolitan*. And since a Zeal of this sort has been newly kindled amongst us, 'tis like we shall see from afar the many Spires arising in our great City, with such hasty and sudden growth, as may be the occasion perhaps that our immediate Relish shall be hereafter censur'd, as retaining much of what Artists call the *Gothick* Kind.

HARDLY, indeed, as the Publick now stands, shou'd we bear to see a *Whitehall* treated like a *Hampton-Court*, or even a new Cathedral like St. PAUL's. Almost every-one now becomes concern'd, and interests himself in such publick Structures. Even those Pieces too are brought under the common Censure, which, tho' rais'd

by private Men, are of such a Grandure and Magnificence, as to become National Ornaments. The ordinary Man may build his Cottage, or the plain Gentleman his Country-house according as he fansys: but when a great Man builds, he will find little Quarter from the Publick, if instead of a beautiful Pile, he raiſes, at a vast ex-pence, such a false and counterfeit Piece of Magnificence, as can be justly arraign'd for its Deformity by ſo many knowing Men in Art, and by the whole *People*, who, in ſuch a Conjunction, readily follow their Opinion.

IN reality *the People* are no ſmall Partys in this *Cause*. Nothing moves ſucceſſfully without 'em: There can be no **P U B L I C K**, but where they are included. And without *a Publick Voice*, knowingly guided and directed, there is nothing which can raiſe a true Ambition in the Artist; nothing which can exalt the Genius of the Workman, or make him emulous of after-Fame, and of the approbation of his *Country*, and of *Posterity*. For with *these* he naturally, as a *Freeman*, must take part: in *these* he has a paſſionate Concern, and Interest, raiſ'd in him by the ſame Genius of *Liberty*, the ſame *Laws* and *Government*, by which his Property, and the Rewards of his Pains and Industry are ſecur'd to him, and to his Generation after him.

EVERY

EVERY thing co-operates, in such a State, towards the Improvement of *Art* and *Science*. And for the *designing Arts* in particular, such as *Architecture*, *Painting*, and *Statuary*, they are in a manner link'd together. The Taste of one kind brings necessarily that of the others along with it. When the *free Spirit* of a Nation turns it-self this way, Judgments are form'd ; Criticks arise ; the publick Eye and Ear improve ; a right Taste prevails, and in a manner forces its way. Nothing is so improving, nothing so natural, so *con-genial* to the liberal Arts, as that reigning Liberty and high Spirit of a People, which from the Habit of judging in the highest Matters for themselves, makes 'em freely judg of other Subjects, and enter thorowly into the Characters as well of *Men* and *Manners*, as of the *Products* or *Works* of Men, in Art and Science. So much, my Lord, do we owe to the Excellence of our National Constitution, and Legal Monarchy ; happily fitted for Us, and which alone cou'd hold together so mighty a People ; all sharers (tho at so far a distance from each other) in the Government of *themselves* ; and meeting under *one Head* in *one vast Metropolis* ; whose enormous Growth, however censurable in other respects, is actually a Cause that Workmanship and Arts

Arts of so many kinds arise to such perfection.

WHAT Encouragement our higher Powers may think fit to give these growing Arts, I will not pretend to guess. This I know, that 'tis so much for their advantage and Interest to make themselves the chief Partys in the Cause, that I wish no Court or Ministry, besides a truly virtuous and wise one, may ever concern themselves in the Affair. For shou'd they do so, they wou'd in reality do more harm than good; since 'tis not the Nature of a Court (such as Courts generally are) to improve, but rather corrupt *a Taste*. And what is in the beginning set wrong by their Example, is hardly ever afterwards recoverable in the Genius of a Nation.

CONTENT therefore I am, my Lord, that BRITAIN stands in this respect as she now does. Nor can one, methinks, with just reason regret her having hitherto made no greater advancement in these affairs of Art. As her *Constitution* has grown, and been establish'd, she has in proportion fitted her-self for other Improvements. There has been no Anticipation in the Case. And in this surely she must be esteem'd wise, as well as happy; that ere she attempted to raise her-self any other Taste or Relish, she secur'd her-self a right

right one in *Government*. She has now the advantage of beginning in other Matters, on a new foot. She has her *Models* yet to seek, her *Scale* and *Standard* to form, with deliberation and good choice. Able enough she is at present to shift for her-self ; however abandon'd or helpless she has been left by those whom it became to assist her. Hardly, indeed, cou'd she procure a single *Academy* for the training of her Youth in Exercises. As good Soldiers as we are, and as good Horses as our Climate affords, our Princes, rather than expend their Treasure this way, have suffer'd our Youth to pass into a foreign Nation, to learn to ride. As for other *Academys*, such as those for Painting, Sculpture, or Architecture, we have not so much as heard of the Proposal ; whilst the Prince of our rival Nation raises Academys, breeds Youth, and sends Rewards and Pensions into foreign Countrys, to advance the Interest and Credit of his own. Now if, notwithstanding the Industry and Pains of this foreign Court, and the supine Un-concernedness of our own, the National Taste however rises, and already shews it-self in many respects beyond that of our so highly-assisted Neighbours ; what greater Proof can there be of the Superiority of Genius in one of these Nations above the other ?

'TIS

"Tis but this moment that I chance to read in an Article of one of the *Gazettes* from PARIS, that 'tis resolv'd at Court to establish a new *Academy* for political Affairs. " In it the present " Chief-Minister is to preside ; having " under him six Academists, *douëz des* " *Talens nécessaires* — No Person to be " receiv'd under the age of twenty five. " A thousand Livres Pension for each " Scholar — Able Masters to be appointed " for teaching them the necessary Scien- " ces, and instructing them in the Treatys " of Peace and Alliances, which have " been formerly made — The Members " to assamble three times a Week — — " *C'est de ce Séminaire* (says the Writer) " *qu'on tirera les Secrétaires d'Ambassade* ; " *qui par degrés pourront monter à de plus* " *hauts Emplois.*"

I MUST confess, my Lord, as great an Admirer as I am of these regular Institutions, I can't but look upon *an Academy for Ministers* as a very extraordinary Establishment ; especially in such a Monarchy as FRANCE, and at such a Conjunction as the present. It looks as if the Ministers of that Court had discover'd lately some new Methods of Negotiation, such as their Predecessors RICHELIEU and

and MAZARINE never thought of ; or that, on the contrary, they have found themselves so declin'd, and at such a loss in the Management of this present Treaty, as to be forc'd to take their Lesson from some of those Ministers with whom they treat : a Reproach, of which, no doubt, they must be highly sensible.

BUT 'tis not my design here, to entertain your Lordship with any Reflections upon Politicks, or the Methods which the FRENCH may take to raise themselves *new* Ministers, or *new* Generals ; who may prove a better Match for us than hitherto, whilst we held our *old*. I will only say to your Lordship on this Subject of *Academys* ; that indeed I have less concern for the Deficiency of such a one as this, than of any other which cou'd be thought of, for ENGLAND ; and that as for a Seminary of *Statesmen*, I doubt not but, without this extraordinary help, we shall be able, out of our *old Stock*, and the common course of Busines, constantly to furnish a sufficient Number of well-qualify'd Persons to serve upon occasion, either at home, or in our foreign Treatys ; as often as such Persons accordingly qualify'd shall duly, honestly, and *bondâ fide* be requir'd to serve,

I RETURN therefore to my *Virtuoso*-Science ; which being my chief Amusement in this Place and Circumstance, your Lordship has by it a fresh Instance that I can never employ my Thoughts with satisfaction on any Subject, without making you a Party. For even this very NOTION had its rise chiefly from the Conversation of a certain Day, which I had the happiness to pass a few years since in the Country with your Lordship. 'Twas there you shew'd me some Ingravings, which had been sent you from ITALY. One in particular I well remember ; of which the Subject was the very same with that of my written NOTION inclos'd. But by what Hand it was done, or after what Master, or how executed, I have quite forgot. 'Twas the Summer-season, when you had Recess from Busines. And I have accordingly calculated this *Epiſtle* and *Project* for the same Recess and Leisure. For by the time this can reach ENGLAND, the Spring will be far advanc'd, and the national Affairs in a manner over, with those who are not in the *immediate Administration.*

WERE that indeed your Lordship's Lot, at present ; I know not whether in regard to my Country I shou'd dare throw such Amusements as these in your way. Yet

Yet even in this Case, I wou'd venture to say however, in defense of my Project, and of the *Cause of Painting*; that cou'd my young Hero come to your Lordship as well represented as he might have been, either by the Hand of a \* MARAT or a JORDANO, (the Masters who were in being, and in repute, when I first travel'd here in ITALY) the Picture it-self, whatever the *Treatise* prov'd, wou'd have been worth notice, and might have become a Present worthy of our Court, and Prince's Palace; especially were it so bless'd as to lodge within it a royal Issue of her Majesty's. Such a Piece of Furniture might well fit the Gallery, or Hall of Exercises, where our young Princes shou'd learn their usual Lessons. And to see VIRTUE in this Garb and Action, might perhaps be no slight Memorandum hereafter to a Royal Youth, who shou'd one day come to undergo this Trial himself; on which his own Happiness, as well as the Fate of EUROPE and of the World, wou'd in so great a measure depend.

THIS, my Lord, is making (as you see) the most I can of my Project, and

\* Carlo Marat was yet alive, at the time this Letter was written; but had been long super-annuated, and incapable of any considerable Performance.

setting off my Amusements with the best Colour I am able; that I may be the more excusable in communicating them to your Lordship, and expressing thus, with what Zeal I am,

MY LORD,

*Your Lordship's*

Naples, March 6.  
N. S. 1712.

*most faithful*

*umble Servant,*

SHAFTESBURY.

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